MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

VOLUME 6

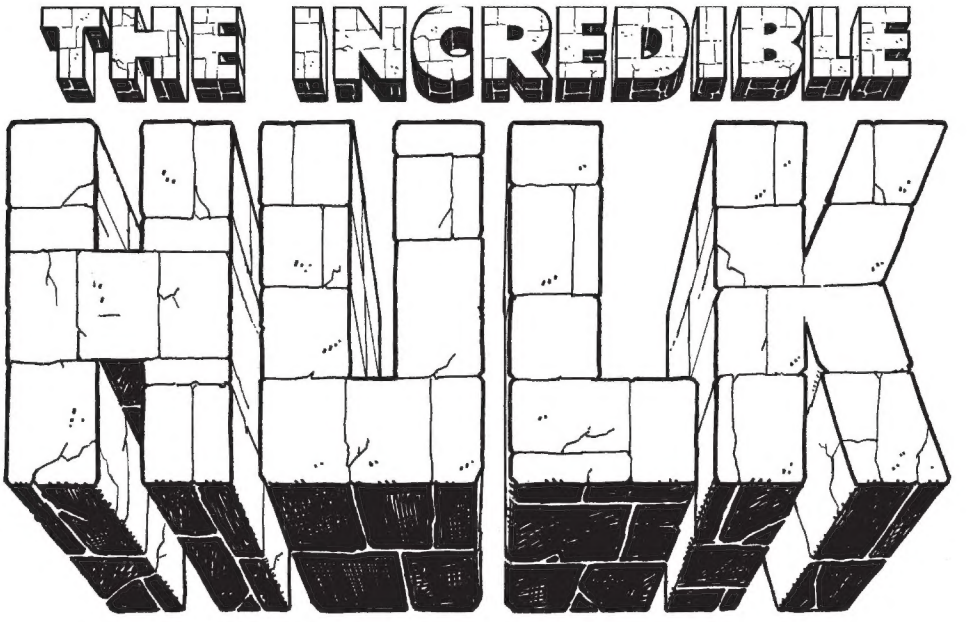
THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 122-134

ROY THOMAS & HERB TRIMPE

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS



VOLUME 6

COLLECTING

THE INCREDIBLE HULK Nos. 122-134

ROY THOMAS • HERB TRIMPE

Collection Editor
Cory Sedlmeier
Book Design
Nickel DesignWorks
SVP of Publishing Sales & Circulation
David Gabriel
SVP of Brand Planning & Communication
Michael Pasciullo
Digital Manager/Production
Tim Smith 3
Digital Production
Kou Chen
Editor in Chief
Axel Alonso
Chief Creative Officer
Joe Quesada
Publisher
Dan Buckley
Executive Producer
Alan Fine

© 2018 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
CREDITS

THE
INCREDIBLE HULK
Nos. 122-134

Writer: Roy Thomas

Pencilers: Herb Trimpe (Nos. 122-134)
Sal Buscema (No. 124)

Inkers: Herb Trimpe (Nos. 122, 123, 125-130)
Sal Buscema (Nos. 124, 134)
John Severin (Nos. 131-133)

Letterers: Art Simek (Nos. 122, 123, 126, 132, 134)
Sam Rosen (No. 124, 125, 127-131, 133)

Editor: Stan Lee

Color Reconstruction: Sheila Johnson

Art Reconstruction: Dale Crain

Special Thanks: Ralph Macchio

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
CONTENTS

Introduction by Roy Thomas

The Incredible Hulk #122, December 1969
"The Hulk's Last Fight!"

The Incredible Hulk #123, January 1970
"No More the Monster!"

The Incredible Hulk #124, February 1970
"The Rhino Says No!"

The Incredible Hulk #125, March 1970
"…And Now, the Absorbing Man!"

The Incredible Hulk #126, April 1970
"…Where Stalks the Night-Crawler!"

The Incredible Hulk #127, May 1970
"Mogol!"

The Incredible Hulk #128, June 1970
"And in This Corner…the Avengers!"

The Incredible Hulk #129, July 1970
"Again, the Glob!"

The Incredible Hulk #130, August 1970
"If I Kill You--I Die!"

The Incredible Hulk #131, September 1970
"A Titan Stalks the Tenements!"

The Incredible Hulk #132, October 1970
"In the Hands of Hydra!"

The Incredible Hulk #133, November 1970
"Day of Thunder--Night of Death!"

The Incredible Hulk #134, December 1970
"Among Us Walks…the Golem"

INTRODUCTION
BY ROY THOMAS

Nowadays, comics companies consider themselves lucky if an in-demand creator will commit himself to writing or drawing a full year's worth of issues. Back in the Silver Age, though, when one was offered to us, most of us hopped aboard a series as if it were a buckin' bronco, determined to ride it until it threw us off—or at least until it no longer felt good to keep riding it. Maybe we just had a longer attention span.

That's as may be. Certainly, during the two years I scripted *The Incredible Hulk* (from #120 through #143, plus the plot for #144), I never felt the need for a "break." Maybe that's because, most every time I began to think about the next issue, I felt as if I was starting from scratch, coming up with a brand-new story, at a time when many of Marvel's mags were heavily continued from issue to issue.

There were two reasons for this.

The first was that, though I enjoyed writing Ol' Greenskin's adventures, it was never a title I felt anxious about. Long before the 1963-67 TV series *The Fugitive* became the de facto template for that of Universal TV's *Incredible Hulk,* that model was already basically established in Marvel comics. Each month, either the Hulk or his alter ego Bruce Banner (whose first name was not yet David) would be on the run, and his journey would bring him into conflict with a super villain, a super hero, the U.S. Army, or some combination of the above.

The second reason was Herb Trimpe. Herb and I are roughly the same age, and if we didn't have a lot of obvious interests in common besides comics, we got along well and had an easy camaraderie. Herb had a full-speed-ahead, no-frills action approach to the art, which worked especially well on an elemental title like *Hulk*.

By *Hulk* #122, only our third issue together (and only the second we co-plotted), we were already smoothly in the groove. The preceding issue, I'd gotten my "Heap fix" out of the way, co-creating with Herb "The Glob," the very first Silver Age answer to the 1940s monster/hero "The Heap," who had rampaged his swamp-green way through Hillman's *Airboy Comics*. Clearly, however, we didn't feel it was too soon for Jade-Jaws to meet yet another monster/hero—this time the very character who'd set the tone for Marvel's man-monsters. Namely, Benjamin J. Grimm, the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing.

That tale was sufficient to get the Hulk to New York City and into the F.F.'s helpful clutches. Since the previous episode has established that Reed Richards thought he'd found a cure for Banner's "condition," it was easy to pick up the reins of that story arc the next time Herb and I got together. We thought it would be fun to play around with what might happen if, at least for a little while, Bruce was able to control his transformations back and forth into the Hulk. A note of poignancy was sounded by the fact that even though Banner now had command of his changes, the Thing—one of those who had helped him—did not.

The moon landing of summer 1969 probably occurred around the time we were plotting *Incredible Hulk* #123, and there was a lot of talk about the lunar craft being "modular." Enter—the Murder Module. Powered by none other than the Leader, a Stan Lee/Steve Ditko character from the Hulk's heyday in *Tales to Astonish*. We tried to balance off throwing pre-existing villains and heroes against the Hulk with developing new ones he could face; while we never kept count, the ratio was probably something like three to one in favor of the "used" approach. Marvel had a lot of good villains, and they needed employment on a regular basis; you wouldn't wanna run into those guys standing in the unemployment line, would you?

Issue 124 is a favorite *Hulk* of mine—mostly for a single panel. We'll get to that in a minute. But I also liked the combination of Herb and inker/embellisher Sal Buscema. I believe that, for some forgotten

reason, Herb only did rough layouts for the issue, with Sal finishing the pencils and inking. It was a very good look.

Since we'd set it up in the previous issue for Bruce and Betty Ross to wed (or at least try to) in this one, we had our hook from the start. Naturally, someone would show up to disrupt the ceremony, as we (and Stan) weren't ready for the Banners to set up housekeeping just yet. We elected the Rhino, who had started life as a foe of Spider-Man. But, since all of Marvel's heroes lived in the same lunatic universe, there was nothing to prevent the Rhino from encountering the Hulk. Matter of fact, he'd already done so once before, so this was simply a repeat bout.

Now, about that favorite panel in this issue: It's the one on page 13 in which the minister is beginning the ceremony, and over the mantle behind him in Thunderbolt Ross' house—though not really as big as I'd have liked to see it—was something I'd asked Herb to toss in: a "photograph" of an H-bomb explosion.

We got a lot of letters about that panel. Some thought it was the perfect touch in the home of a warhorse like Thunderbolt Ross. One or two berated us for putting it there, pontificating that no one, not even a militarist like him, would have put such a violent picture in such a prominent place in his home.

But actually…one *had.*

In the early 1960s, a year or two before I'd moved to New York, when I was teaching high school back in Missouri, one of my best friends was one Bob, who would go on to become an attorney. While Bob himself was of a liberal bent, his father (Bob always referred to him as "The Colonel") was a high-ranking officer in the USAF, who presided over a local Air Force base. Back in 1952, he had coordinated the Air Weather Service for the very first H-bomb blast, over the tiny atoll of Eniwetok in the Pacific, and he was quite proud of having done so. I can still remember how startled I was when Bob and I visited him on the base over one weekend and, in the living room of his spacious colonnaded home, I found myself face-to-face with a huge, framed color photograph of that very H-bomb blast above the fireplace, the central spot in the room. It was actually rather larger than the one that Herb and Sal drew. Since that day, I've never been quite as shocked as I was that day to encounter what is often called a "movie moment"—a scene so perfect that it seems to have been plucked from some film, rather than existing in the humdrum of "real life."

Next batter up was the Absorbing Man—a Thor villain this time. Since Spidey and Goldilocks were, like the Thing, some of Marvel's strongest characters, they tended to encounter the foes who'd be perfect to rotate over into *Hulk*. Absorbing Man was returning from deep space, from his last defeat at the hand (and hammer) of Thor ("as immortalized in *Thor* #123," as a footnote declared). Stan insisted—and if he hadn't, I probably would have done so anyway—that when we brought a villain back, we show how he got out of the cell or mess in which his previous appearance had left him. It was all part and parcel of Marvel's more "reality-based" approach to comics, as opposed to comics of Ye Olden Days, when a favored villain might pop up again and again, with nary a word of explanation as to how he got out of prison or avoided a seemingly inescapable death trap. Unlike in the 1940s and '50s, when the conventional wisdom was that virtually the entire readership of comics turned over every five years as youngsters grew up a bit and discovered girls and other interests, some of our fans had read that very first Hulk story in 1962, already eight years in the past. If you wanted to hang on to such faithful readers, you had to treat their logical questions with respect—even before they had a chance to ask them.

Hmm…the F.F., the Leader, the Rhino, the Absorbing Man…that's four issues in a row with previously-established characters. Herb and I must've decided that we'd better come up with a *new* antagonist for the Hulk to fight, before the readers decided we had forgotten how to create them.

Not that the Night-Crawler was one of our great creations, but he got the job done. Some months before, in what had become the last issue, the first time around, of the *Doctor Strange* titles, I'd launched a story arc involving the Undying Ones, a first fruit of my newfound enthusiasm for the supernatural fiction of H.P. Lovecraft. With the demise of Doc's title, I felt a desire both to carry on that storyline—and to keep the Mystic Master himself in front of the readers' eyeballs.

Actually, although I didn't have it consciously in mind, I was also setting things up for the early debut of *The Defenders*, since I had also had Dr. Strange and the Undying Ones pop up around that time in a recent edition of *Sub-Mariner*, another mag I scripted. And of course the original Defenders would be Dr. Strange, Namor—and the Hulk.

Next issue, Herb and I introduced yet another new villain—the super-powerful Mogol. That name was derived from the term "Mogul," a corruption of the word "Mogol," which was applied to the Moghul conquerors who had ruled India from the 16th to early 19th century. In truth, though, we were also re-circulating, as the cover copy I wrote proudly proclaimed, "Not One—Not Two—but Three of Marvel's Most Sinister Super-Villains!!" (Well, I don't know if they were the "most" sinister…but they were sinister enough.) The other two were the sub-Earth monarchs Tyrannus and the Mole Man; I had always loved the notion of an underground war between those two, and I brought it front and center every time I got the chance. That war would climax in some *Fantastic Four* issues I would write circa '73-'74.

Mogol? He was just a robot, actually—a means to an end. Nice name, though.

Moving right along: a few months earlier, the Hulk had battled the Fantastic Four. Now it was time for him to face again—the Avengers!

Well, why not? After all, by then I'd been scripting *The Avengers* for three years, and the end was nowhere in sight. At least I knew what they were up to…so it was easy to bring them in. (And easier still because this was the era during which Stan had made me remove Captain America from the team, and still refused to let me bring back Thor and/or Iron Man. Far as I was concerned, it was currently a team of also-rans: Goliath (really Hawkeye, taking a break from the archery thing to experience life as a 15-footer), the Vision, the Scarlet Witch, Quicksilver, and Black Panther. But they were still fun to play around with—and clearly, it would take all five of them together to stand a chance against the Hulk!

With #129, Herb and I brought back the Glob, whose debut ended the preceding volume of this series. I wanted to see the Glob—or at least *some* character echoing the feeling of the aforementioned 1940s Heap—return to prominence in comics. Little did I know that, a couple of years down the road, Marvel and DC Comics would *each* introduce such a creature, and that each would go on to star in his own comics title. I'd have been even more surprised if someone had told me I'd wind up *plotting* the origin of the Marvel entry ("Man-Thing," for *Savage Tales* #1). I believe that eventually, in some tale or other, Man-Thing and the Glob even wound up fighting each other. Be careful what you wish for!

Herb and I had a *heap* of fun with the Glob. At the end, we destroyed him again…but we showed that already the tiny exploded particles of his body were beginning to "wriggle towards each other with a mindless purpose"—so that ere long the Glob would live again. What the hey, we figured readers would know he/it would be coming back anyway, so we might as well get the jump on 'em!

At this point I should confess, with regard to *Incredible Hulk* #130: my first job as a comics pro, in 1965, was as the assistant editor of DC's seven Superman comics, under editor Mort Weisinger. At some stage, he (or one of his writers) had come up with the notion of splitting Superman and Clark Kent into two separate entities who hated each other. I thought it would be fun to see how such a thing might play out with the Hulk. After all, Bruce Banner and the Hulk *already* hated each other. All that was left for Herb and me to do with to split them into two separate people and see what happened. (What would happen, of course, would be that the Hulk would try to kill Banner—uncognizant and uncaring of the fact that, if he succeeded in murdering Banner, he might very well instantly put himself out of existence. But it was a fun premise.)

We let that situation continue over into #131, where we decided to bring some heavy artillery—namely, Iron Man—to battle Ol' Greenskin.

Actually, though, the primo arrival in that issue was not Shellhead—but an artist named John Severin.

John, the big brother of Marvel colorist/artist Marie Severin, had been one of the super-stars (and super-

talents) of the industry since the 1950s, when he contributed beautifully-rendered war, adventure, and humor tales to the E.C. (Entertaining Comics) group in such titles as *Frontline Combat*, *Two-Fisted Tales*, and of course the early color-comic issues of *MAD*. By 1970, he was a mainstay of *Cracked*, the most successful imitator of the magazine edition of *MAD*. Whenever Stan learned that John had time on his hands, he always tried to get him to do some work for Marvel. In the latter 1960s it had been *Sgt. Fury*—and now he was invited to ink (and embellish) *Incredible Hulk*.

So why was this great artist only *inking* the mag, instead of penciling it or some other? Well, for one thing, my understanding is that at this time John only *wanted* to ink. He didn't want to have to help think up stories. For another, John really had little sympathy for super-heroes, and his own penciling tended to be a bit subtler and quieter than Marvel fans expected.

Ah, but the combination of Trimpe's powerful pencils and Severin's exquisite rendering to bring a person, or a whole city, to life—now that was something worth writing home about! And it was, for the next year's worth of *Hulks*!

By happy coincidence, #131 was likewise the issue in which Herb and I had decided to introduce a new buddy for the Hulk, in the person of Jim Wilson. Jim was named after a friend of mine back in Jackson, Missouri. Our Jim was a 15-year-old African-American whose problems as an outcast were a more realistic echo of the Hulk's own. Under the Trimpe/Severin team, Jim instantly became a viable and engaging character in his own right. He'd be around for a while—and would return again over the years.

Oh yeah…and the Hulk fought Iron Man in that issue, too. But that wasn't what was truly memorable about *Hulk* #131.

By #132, the Hulk fell into the grip of Hydra, that ominous organization first spawned by Lee and Kirby in the pages of "S.H.I.E.L.D." Jim Wilson really got a chance to shine in this one, and to show that he was as worthy a friend to the Hulk as even Rick Jones had ever been—even if he seemed at death's door by story's end, with the Hulk vowing to smash the whole world if he dies.

But Jim didn't die, of course. And in #133-134 there followed one of the *Hulk* story arcs about which I still receive the most comments, more than four decades later: the "Golem" storyline. For reasons that escape me at this late date, I got this notion about our green-hued monster-hero going to a European principality where, over the course of two issues, he got involved in the medieval Jewish legend of the Golem—although the Jewish connection was left a bit vague, established mostly through characters named Isaac and Rebecca and their little daughter Rachel. (I would do more with that legend later when as editor-in-chief I'd assign Len Wein to write a Golem series, and even more so when I brought a Golem figure into my World War II-era series *The Invaders*.)

In this sequence, the Hulk battled a dictator (a stand-in, though a less repulsive one, for Adolf Hitler) and fulfilled a legend of which he'd not even heard. Herb sparked to the idea, even though—or perhaps because?—it featured no super villain or other super hero besides the Jolly Green Giant himself. We even had fun playing with the infamous scene from the 1931 *Frankenstein* film in which that monster comes upon a little girl by a pond.

Time flies when you're having fun.

2011

Roy Thomas has been a writer and often editor in the comics field, for Marvel more than for any other company, since 1965. He's always been proud of the fact that, during his and Herb Trimpe's two-year stint together on The Incredible Hulk, *the print run of the title was bumped up at least twice. He also had lengthy 1960s-70s runs on such Marvel titles as* The Avengers, the X-Men, Daredevil, Fantastic Four, Conan the Barbarian, *and others.*

INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
122
DEC
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
YOU'VE HAD IT! HULK! THIS IS YOUR LAST FIGHT!
TRIMPE
GUEST-STARRING: THE FABULOUS FANTASTIC FOUR!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

THE HULK'S LAST FIGHT!

ON A LONELY, DESOLATE HILLSIDE SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH, A TORTURED, GREEN-SKINNED *GIANT* WATCHES AS A BARRELLING *FREIGHT TRAIN* GOBBLES UP THE NORTH-BOUND MILES...AND HE TRIES FALTERINGLY... DESPERATELY...TO *THINK*...!

THERE WAS *SOMEWHERE*... THAT THE *HULK* WANTED TO GO!

SOME PLACE WHERE HE COULD BE *FREE*...WHERE NO ONE WOULD *BOTHER* HIM!

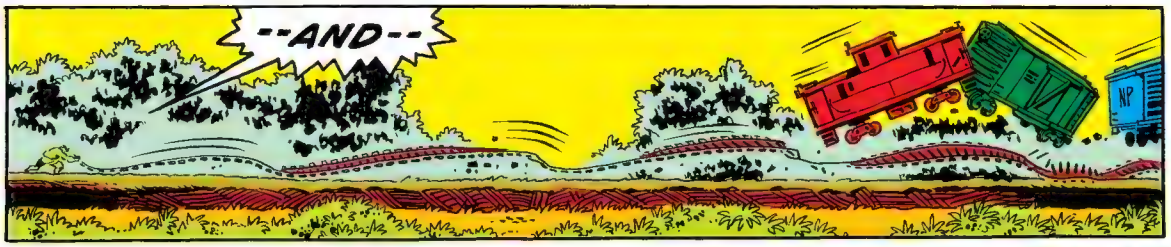
BUT, EVERYWHERE I *GO*, THERE ARE *MEN*...AND THE RASPING, ROARING *MACHINES* THEY MAKE...!

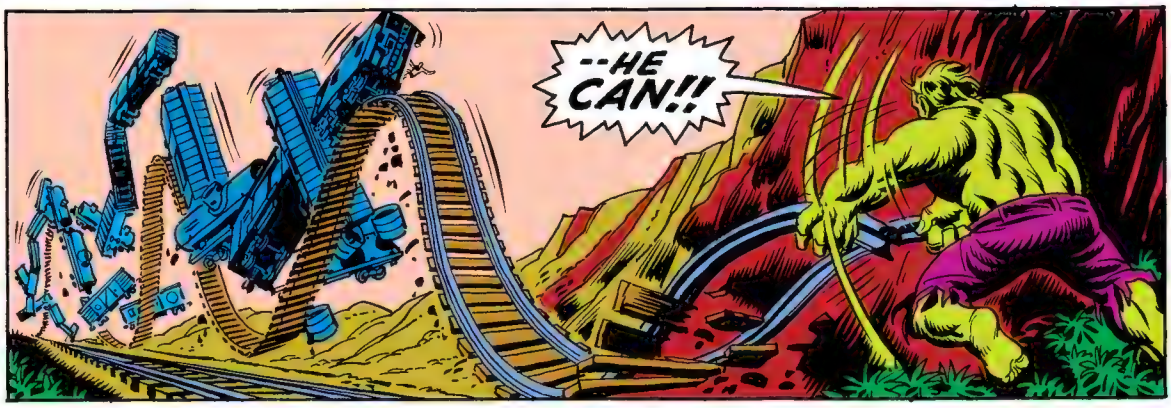
AND, WITH THOSE FATEFUL WORDS, WE BEGIN AN ALL-NEW, *ALL-ACTION* SAGA BY:

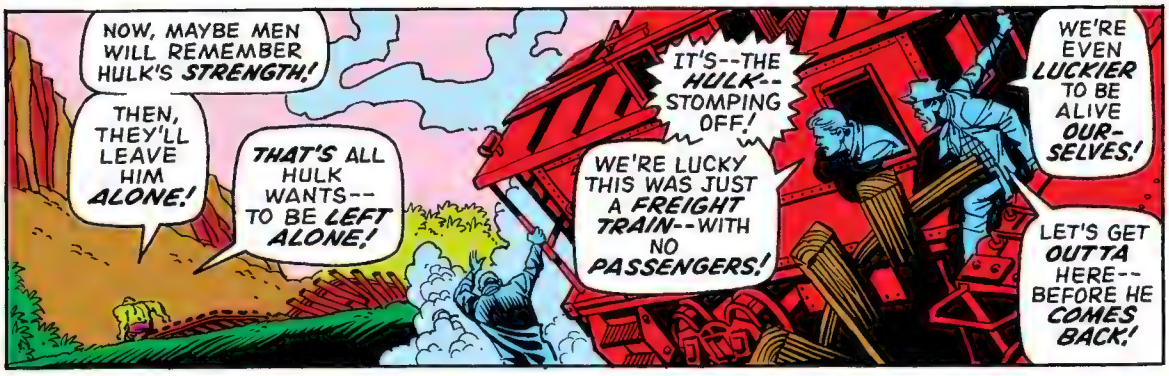
STAN LEE *EDITOR* • **ROY THOMAS** *WRITER* • **HERB TRIMPE** *ARTIST*

WITH THE INK-SPLATTERING AID OF **ARTIE SIMEK**, *LETTERER*

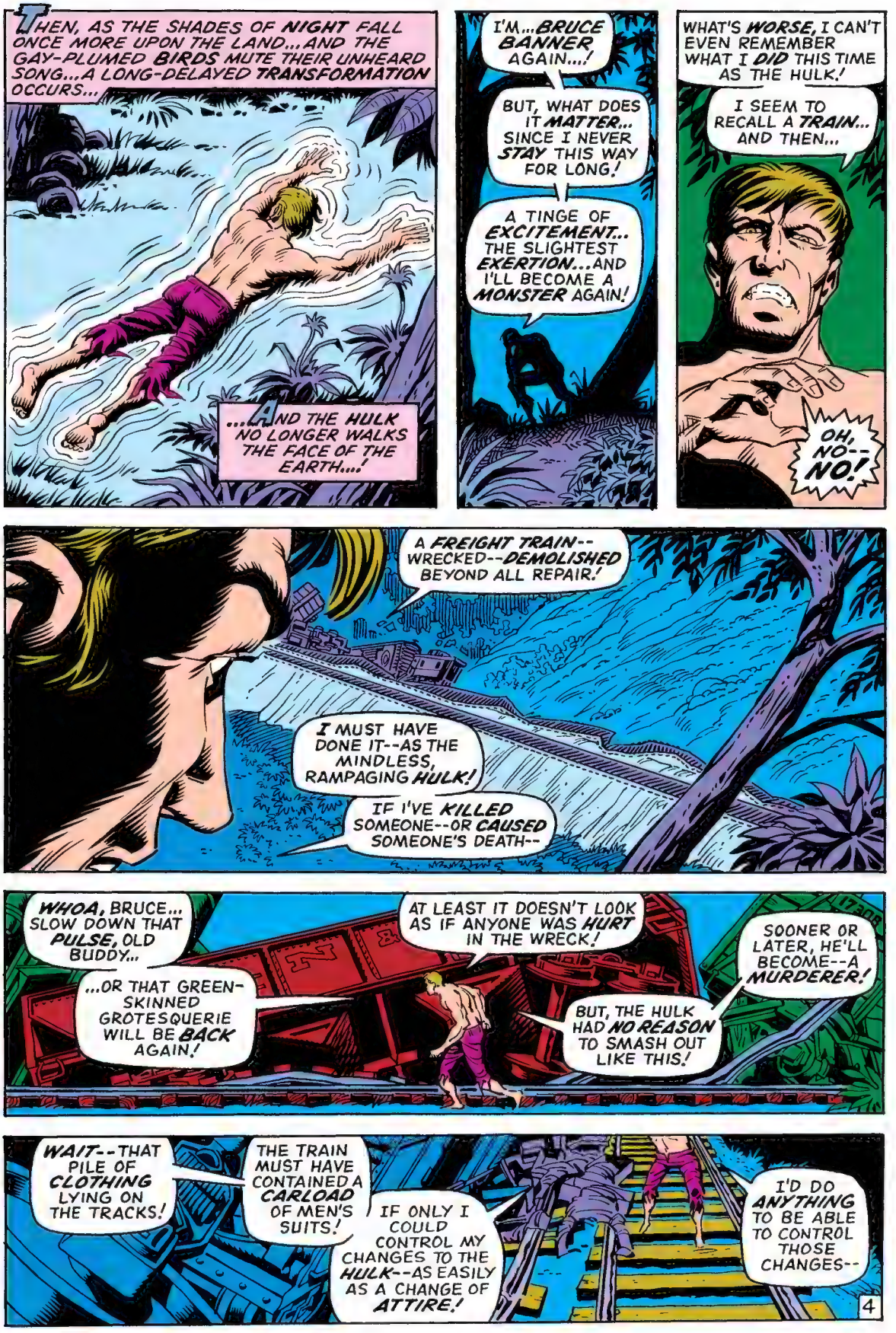
YES...THE MACHINES...
THE MACHINES!
THEY ARE THE THINGS THAT ALWAYS HURT THE HULK...OR CARRY SOLDIERS TO WHERE HE IS HIDING!
NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY
NP
AMERICAN REFRIGERATOR TRANSIT CO.
A.R.T. 22818
NP 7104
MAYBE THAT TRAIN BRINGS SOLDIERS TO HUNT FOR HULK!
SOLDIERS... OR TANKS... OR THE ROCKETS THAT STING!
WELL, IF IT DOES--
KRUNCH!
THEY WILL NEVER REACH WHERE THEY ARE GOING!
NOT IF THE HULK CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT--
2


--AND--
NP


--HE CAN!!

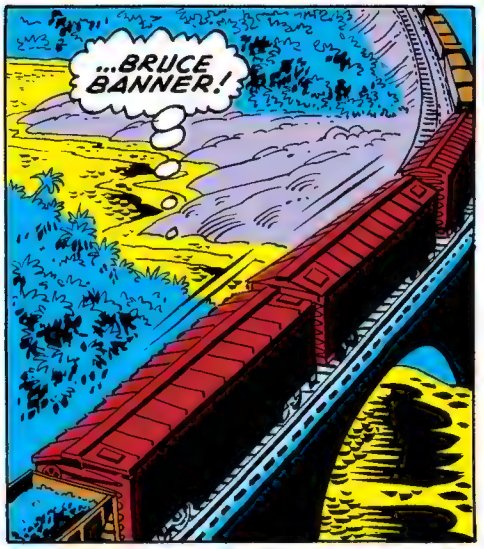

NOW, MAYBE MEN WILL REMEMBER HULK'S STRENGTH!
THEN, THEY'LL LEAVE HIM ALONE!
THAT'S ALL HULK WANTS--TO BE LEFT ALONE!
IT'S--THE HULK--STOMPING OFF!
WE'RE LUCKY THIS WAS JUST A FREIGHT TRAIN--WITH NO PASSENGERS!
WE'RE EVEN LUCKIER TO BE ALIVE OURSELVES!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE--BEFORE HE COMES BACK!

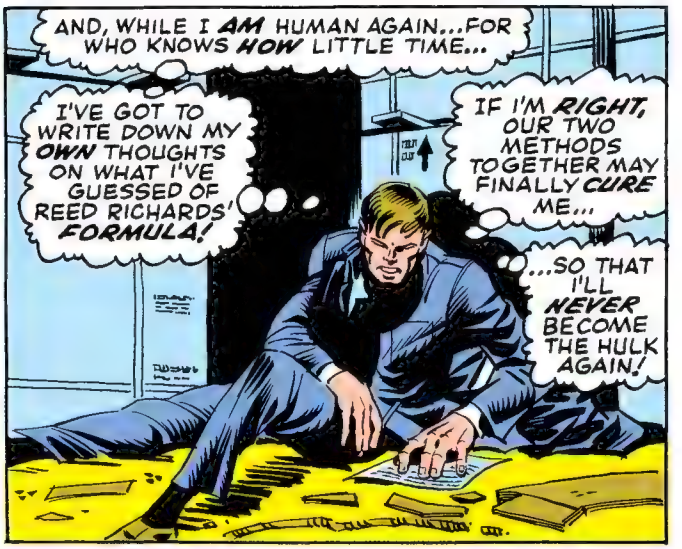
LET THEM RUN, LIKE SCARED RATS!
WHAT DOES THE HULK CARE?
AT LEAST HULK'S FOOT IS BETTER NOW...HE CAN WALK AGAIN!
IF ONLY HE COULD THINK CLEAR... REMEMBER WHERE HE WANTED TO GO!
BUT, HULK HAS BEEN AWAKE TOO LONG... BATTLED TOO HARD... CAN'T THINK!
WHY IS IT SO HARD FOR THE HULK...
...TO THINK...?
3


THEN, AS THE SHADES OF NIGHT FALL ONCE MORE UPON THE LAND...AND THE GAY-PLUMED BIRDS MUTE THEIR UNHEARD SONG...A LONG-DELAYED TRANSFORMATION OCCURS...
...AND THE HULK NO LONGER WALKS THE FACE OF THE EARTH....!
I'M...BRUCE BANNER AGAIN....!
BUT, WHAT DOES IT MATTER... SINCE I NEVER STAY THIS WAY FOR LONG!
A TINGE OF EXCITEMENT... THE SLIGHTEST EXERTION...AND I'LL BECOME A MONSTER AGAIN!
WHAT'S WORSE, I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT I DID THIS TIME AS THE HULK!
I SEEM TO RECALL A TRAIN... AND THEN...
OH, NO-- NO!
A FREIGHT TRAIN-- WRECKED--DEMOLISHED BEYOND ALL REPAIR!
I MUST HAVE DONE IT--AS THE MINDLESS, RAMPAGING HULK!
IF I'VE KILLED SOMEONE--OR CAUSED SOMEONE'S DEATH--
WHOA, BRUCE... SLOW DOWN THAT PULSE, OLD BUDDY...
...OR THAT GREEN-SKINNED GROTESQUERIE WILL BE BACK AGAIN!
AT LEAST IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF ANYONE WAS HURT IN THE WRECK!
BUT, THE HULK HAD NO REASON TO SMASH OUT LIKE THIS!
SOONER OR LATER, HE'LL BECOME--A MURDERER!
WAIT--THAT PILE OF CLOTHING LYING ON THE TRACKS!
THE TRAIN MUST HAVE CONTAINED A CARLOAD OF MEN'S SUITS!
IF ONLY I COULD CONTROL MY CHANGES TO THE HULK--AS EASILY AS A CHANGE OF ATTIRE!
I'D DO ANYTHING TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL THOSE CHANGES--
4

--ANYTHING!!
DAILY
FORMULA TO CURE HULK FOUND
FANTASTIC FOUR ANNOUNCE SCIENTIFIC BREAK-THROUGH!
SEARCH ON TO LOCATE BRUCE BANNER!
WHA WHA WHA

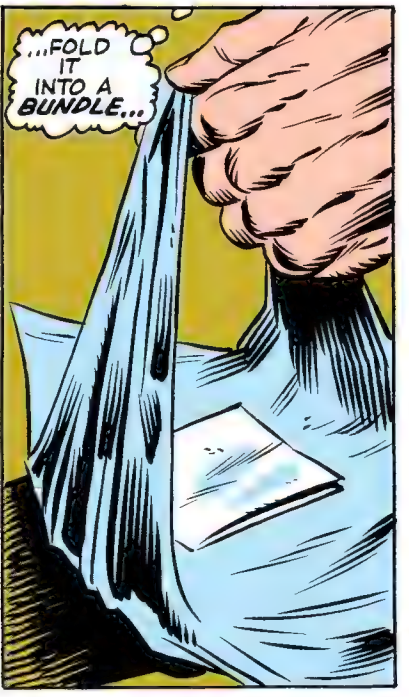
...DO YOU REALLY THINK BRUCE BANNER WILL SEE THIS HEADLINE, REED, DARLING.?
HE'S GOT TO, SUE...FOR HIS OWN SAKE.!
THAT'S WHY WE'VE BEEN BLANKETING THE MASS MEDIA WITH OUR MESSAGE.!
FACE FRONT, YOU HEROES.!
HERE COME THE SECURITY GUARDS REED REQUESTED.!
NUTS.! A LOTTA GOOD THEY'LL BE AGAINST THE HULK.!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT, BEN.!
SHOW THEM IN, JOHNNY.!
...AND THAT'S THE STORY, MEN.!
NO MATTER WHEN BANNER SHOWS UP, HE'S TO BE PASSED THRU WITHOUT QUESTION.!
RIGHT, MR. RICHARDS.!
YOUR MAIN JOB WILL BE TO KEEP AWAY THE CURIOSITY-SEEKERS.!
BUT, WHAT IF BANNER SHOWS UP AS...AS...
AS THE HULK.?
IN THAT EVENT, YOU'RE TO TAKE NO ACTION EXCEPT TO ALERT ME AT ONCE...
...AND TRY TO PREVENT ANY INNOCENT PERSON FROM BEING HARMED.!
CLEAR ENOUGH.!
WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN, SIR...!
...SERGEANT, WAIT.! REPORTING FOR DUTY...!
ANDREWS.! WHAT IN BLAZES--?
WHY WEREN'T YOU AT THE BRIEFING JUST NOW.?
IT'S... MY WIFE, SIR.!
SHE JUST HAD A BABY... I CAME STRAIGHT FROM THE HOSPITAL.!
FACT IS, I'D LIKE TO GO BACK THERE NOW, TO SEE MY SON...!
I CAN'T DISMISS YOU NOW, ANDREWS.!
THERE ARE LIVES AT STAKE HERE TONIGHT.!
AND ONE OF THEM BELONGS TO...
6

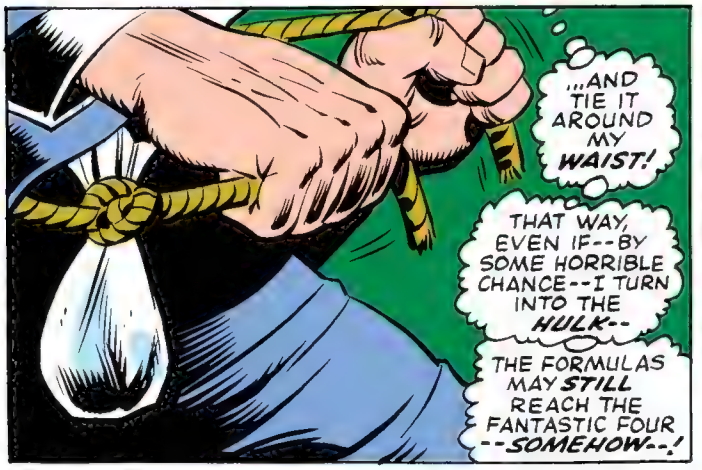

...BRUCE BANNER!


AND, WHILE I AM HUMAN AGAIN...FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LITTLE TIME...
I'VE GOT TO WRITE DOWN MY OWN THOUGHTS ON WHAT I'VE GUESSED OF REED RICHARDS' FORMULA!
IF I'M RIGHT, OUR TWO METHODS TOGETHER MAY FINALLY CURE ME...
...SO THAT I'LL NEVER BECOME THE HULK AGAIN!

BUT, RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND, AS WELL!
THOSE TWO BINDLESTIFFS WHO HOPPED THIS FREIGHT A FEW MILES BACK...!
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THEY KEEP EYEING ME...AND WHISPERING TO EACH OTHER!

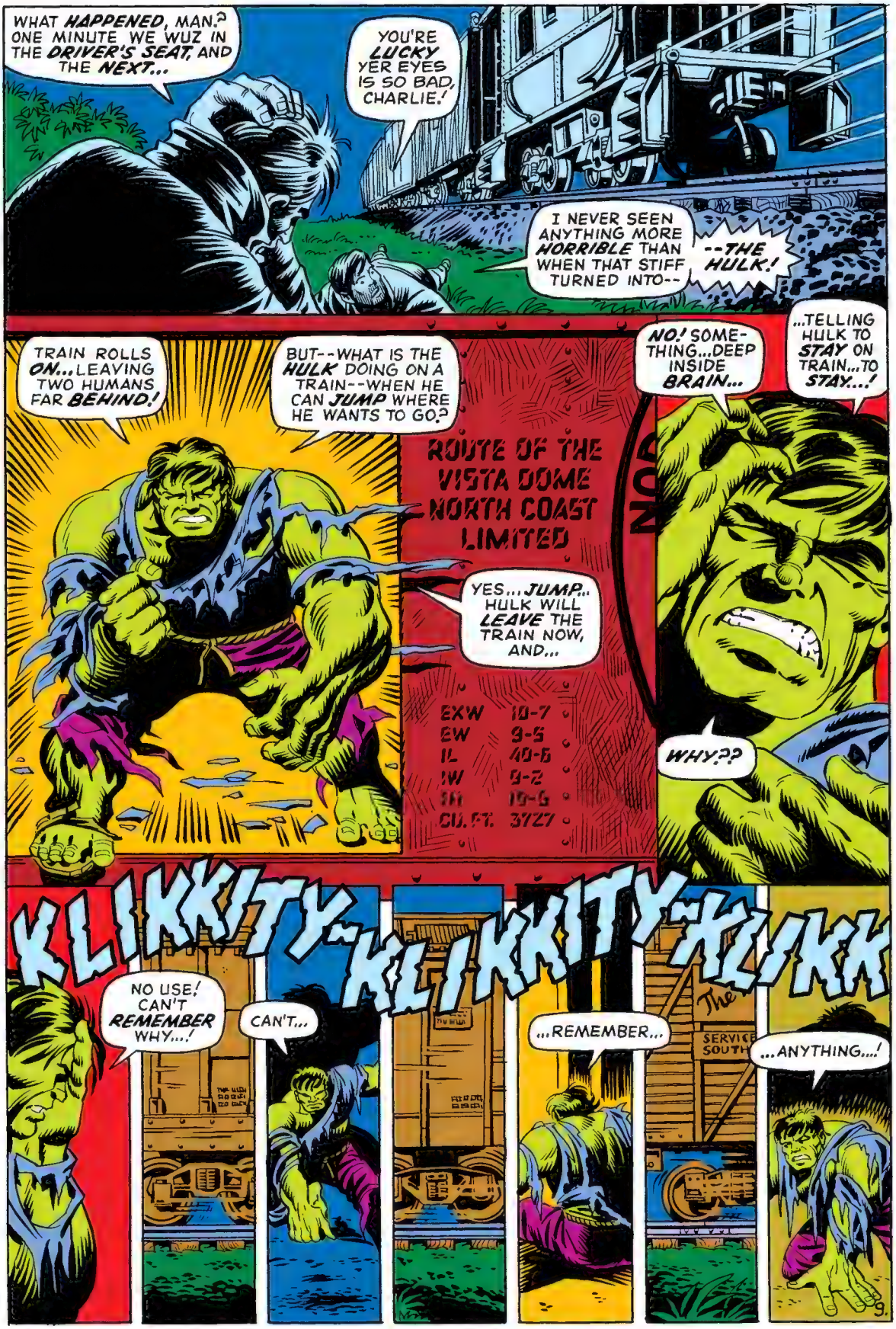
NO! MUSTN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO FEEL FRIGHTENED...OR MENACED!
GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND!
I'LL COMMIT A FEW BASIC FORMULAS TO THIS PAPER I FOUND!

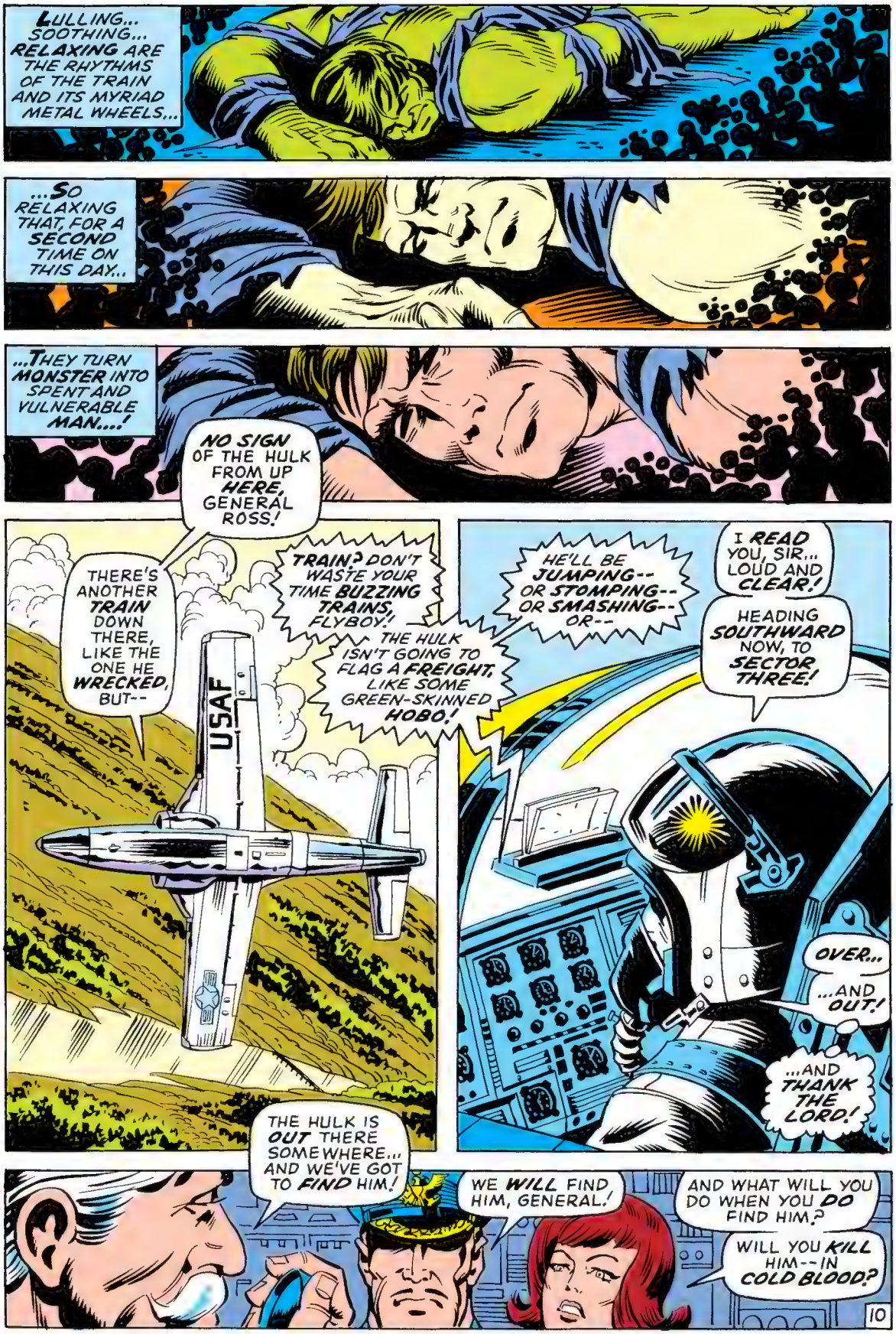

...FOLD IT INTO A BUNDLE...


...AND TIE IT AROUND MY WAIST!
THAT WAY, EVEN IF--BY SOME HORRIBLE CHANCE--I TURN INTO THE HULK--
THE FORMULAS MAY STILL REACH THE FANTASTIC FOUR --SOMEHOW--!

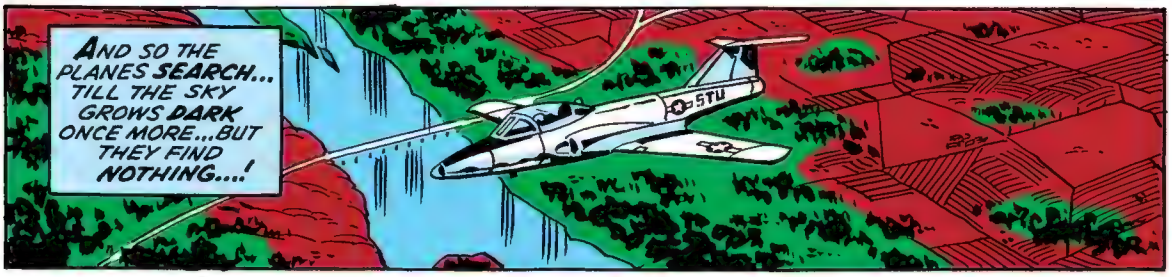
HEY! WHADDID YOU PUT IN THAT POUCH, BUDDY?
WOULDN'T BE SOMETHIN' YOU SHOULD SHARE WITH YER MATES, WOULD IT?
C'MON NOW... WHY DON'TCHA GIVE US A LOOK-SEE?

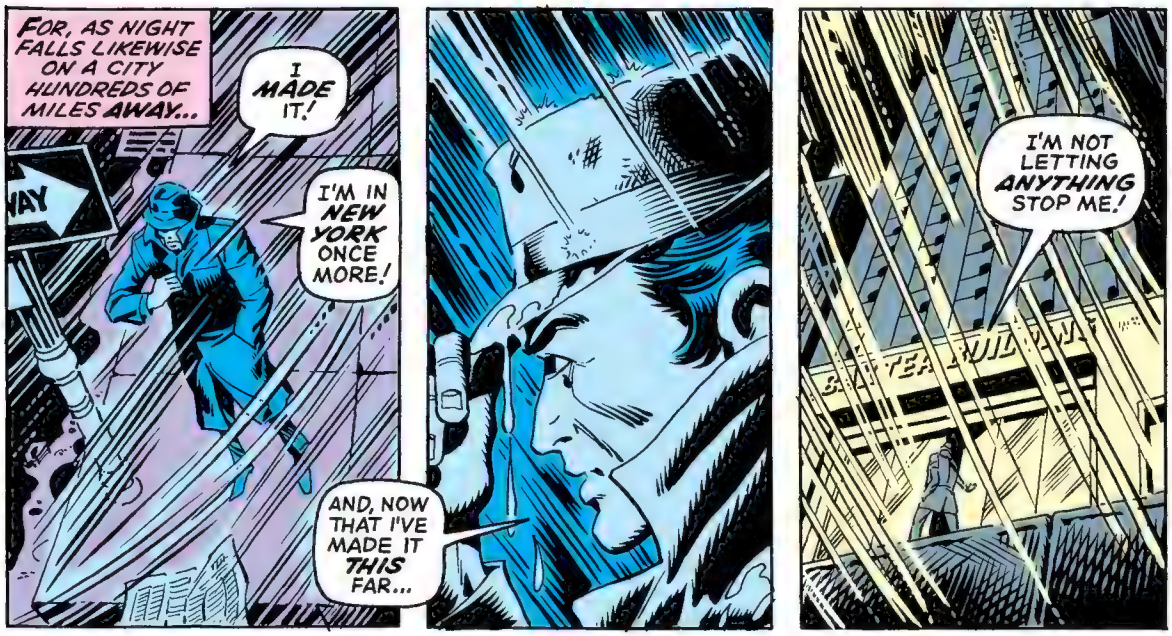
NO...STAY BACK, YOU TWO!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
THIS END UP
IT'S YOU THAT DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOIN', MAC...
...IF YOU DON'T HAND OVER THAT POUCH!
SKLICH!!
GET BACK, I TELL YOU!
IF YOU THREATEN ME...GET ME EXCITED...
WHATCHA GONNA DO, PAL... BLEED ALL OVER US?
HOLD IT, CHARLIE... THERE IS SOMETHIN' WRONG WITH THAT GUY!
HE'S TURNIN' KIND'A... PALE!
PALE?
THEN... IT'S BEGUN!
IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP IT NOW!!
TOO LATE?
WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU TALKIN' AB--?
NO-- NOOOOO!!
ARRAAAARRRRRRR
RR
RH!
NP
HE'S CHANGIN', CHARLIE-- CHANGIN' INTO--INTO--
8


WHAT HAPPENED, MAN? ONE MINUTE WE WUZ IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT, AND THE NEXT...
YOU'RE LUCKY YER EYES IS SO BAD, CHARLIE!
I NEVER SEEN ANYTHING MORE HORRIBLE THAN WHEN THAT STIFF TURNED INTO--
--THE HULK!
TRAIN ROLLS ON...LEAVING TWO HUMANS FAR BEHIND!
BUT--WHAT IS THE HULK DOING ON A TRAIN--WHEN HE CAN JUMP WHERE HE WANTS TO GO?
ROUTE OF THE VISTA DOME NORTH COAST LIMITED
YES...JUMP... HULK WILL LEAVE THE TRAIN NOW, AND...
EXW 10-7
EW 9-5
IL 40-5
IW 9-2
IM 10-6
CU.FT. 3727
NO! SOMETHING...DEEP INSIDE BRAIN...
...TELLING HULK TO STAY ON TRAIN...TO STAY...!
WHY??
KLIKKITY-KLIKKITY-KLIKK
NO USE! CAN'T REMEMBER WHY...!
CAN'T...
...REMEMBER...
...ANYTHING...!
The
SERVICE
SOUTH


LULLING... SOOTHING... RELAXING ARE THE RHYTHMS OF THE TRAIN AND ITS MYRIAD METAL WHEELS...
...SO RELAXING THAT, FOR A SECOND TIME ON THIS DAY...
...THEY TURN MONSTER INTO SPENT AND VULNERABLE MAN....!
NO SIGN OF THE HULK FROM UP HERE, GENERAL ROSS!
THERE'S ANOTHER TRAIN DOWN THERE, LIKE THE ONE HE WRECKED, BUT--
TRAIN? DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME BUZZING TRAINS, FLYBOY!
THE HULK ISN'T GOING TO FLAG A FREIGHT, LIKE SOME GREEN-SKINNED HOBO!
USAF
HE'LL BE JUMPING-- OR STOMPING-- OR SMASHING-- OR--
I READ YOU, SIR... LOUD AND CLEAR!
HEADING SOUTHWARD NOW, TO SECTOR THREE!
OVER...
...AND OUT!
...AND THANK THE LORD!
THE HULK IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE... AND WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
WE WILL FIND HIM, GENERAL!
AND WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU DO FIND HIM?
WILL YOU KILL HIM--IN COLD BLOOD?

YOU KNOW THAT THE HULK SAVED ME...FROM THAT LOATHSOME CREATURE IN THE EVERGLADES!*
BUT STILL, YOU WON'T ADMIT THAT HE COULD BE CURED...BECOME BRUCE BANNER AGAIN!
BETTY, WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE THERE WAS SUCH A CREATURE!
MAYBE WE WERE BOTH SUFFERING FROM SOME KIND OF HYSTERIA....!
AND I SUFFERED FROM COLD FEET...AND LET THE HULK GO!
BUT, I'LL NEVER DO THAT AGAIN!
I SWEAR IT!
*LAST ISSUE!--S.


AND SO THE PLANES SEARCH... TILL THE SKY GROWS DARK ONCE MORE...BUT THEY FIND NOTHING....!


FOR, AS NIGHT FALLS LIKEWISE ON A CITY HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY...
I MADE IT!
I'M IN NEW YORK ONCE MORE!
AND, NOW THAT I'VE MADE IT THIS FAR...
I'M NOT LETTING ANYTHING STOP ME!

THERE WERE LIGHTS ON, IN THE TOP FLOORS WHERE THEY LIVE!
THAT MEANS... I'M HOME FREE!
HOLD IT, MAC! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOIN'?
ANOTHER WEIRDO! JUST MY LUCK FOR RELIEVING MY BUDDY ANDREWS!
BUT, WHEN HE CALLED ME, I COULDN'T TURN 'IM DOWN!
NOT WITH HIS WIFE HAVIN' A BABY AN' ALL!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHERE AM I GOING?
MY NAME IS BANNER... BRUCE BANNER!
YEAH, SURE ...YOU AND A ZILLION OTHER UNSHAVEN BUMS!
THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE EXPECTING ME!
JUST COOL YER HEELS RIGHT THERE ...WHILE I PHONE UP!
PHONE UP? BUT DON'T YOU SEE?
EVERY MINUTE IS PRECIOUS!
NOW STAND ASIDE... I'M GOING UP!
OVER MY BEATEN BODY, MAC!
ANYWAY YOU WANT IT, FRIEND...
BUT I'M GOING UP THERE!
UNNHH!
OKAY, PAL...MAYBE THE GUY I'M REPLACING DIDN'T DO MUCH OF A JOB OF BRIEFING ME!
JUST THE SAME, NOBODY GETS AWAY WITH PUSHIN' ME AROUND!
NOW, ARE YOU COMIN' QUIETLY, OR...?
STOP! PUT THAT GUN AWAY, YOU FOOL!
THAT'S THE HULK YOU'RE TALKING TO!!
THE... HULK...?
IT'S... TOO LATE!
THE EXCITEMENT...
...IT'S CAUSING MY PULSE TO RACE...!
12

I'M CHANGING...
CHANGING...
...INTO...
...THE HULK!
AND, THE HULK GOES WHERE HE WANTS TO GO!
HOLY CATS! BULLETS BOUNCE RIGHT OFF THAT MONSTER!
NOTHING CAN STOP THE HULK!
WE CAN'T STOP HIM!
NOTHING!!
THRA AAKK!
SEEM TO REMEMBER... THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE UP ABOVE!
BUT, THEY ARE HULK'S ENEMIES... FROM BEFORE!
KRUNCH!
THEN, ONLY ONE REASON TO SEEK THEM OUT!
HULK MUST DESTROY HIS ENEMIES!!

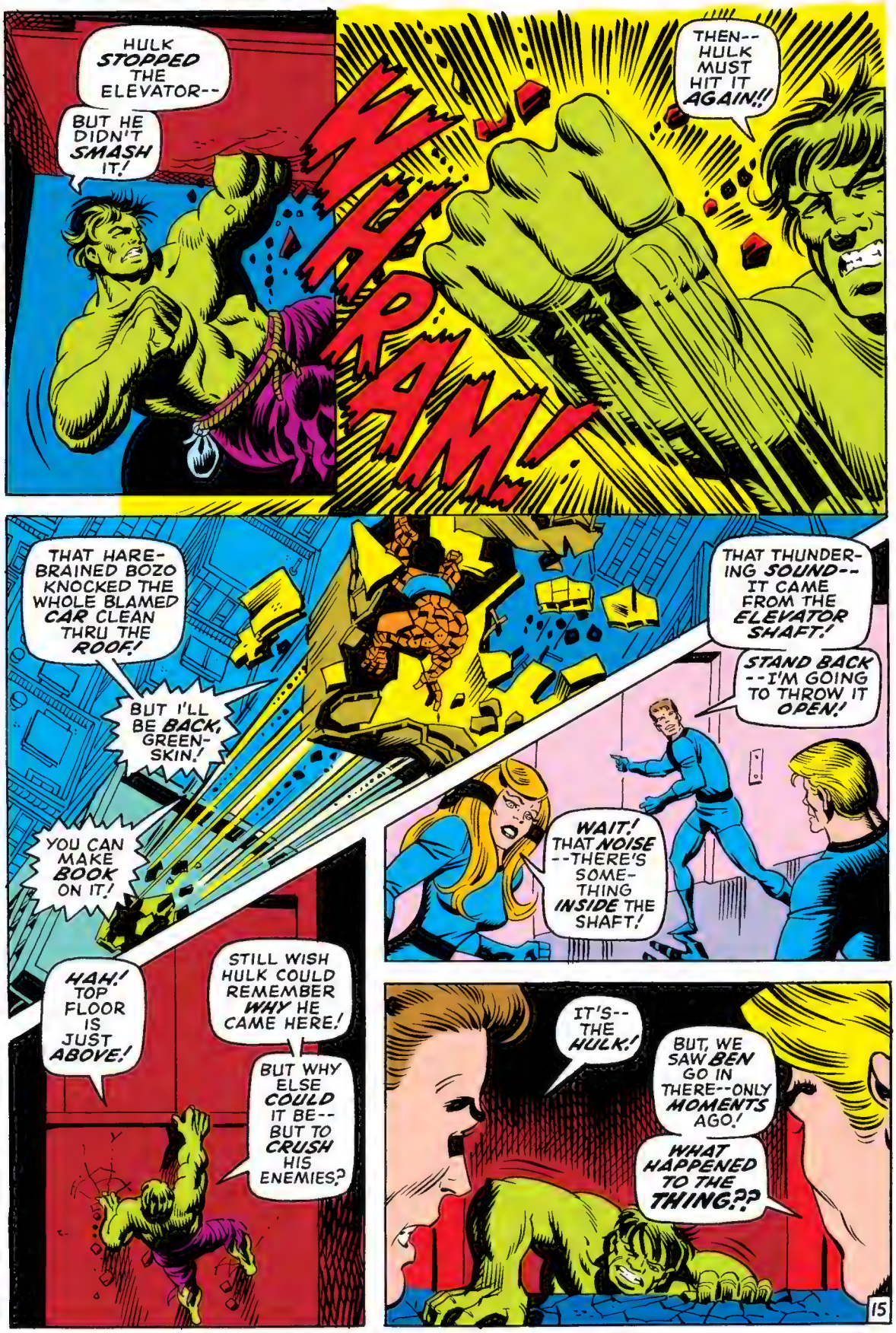
BEN! CONDITION RED!
SOMEONE BELOW JUST SOUNDED THE ALERT!
THAT CAN ONLY MEAN--THE HULK HAS ARRIVED!
I TOLJA WE'D HAVE TROUBLE WITH THAT GREEN HUNK'A MUSCLE!

WELL, IF TROUBLE'S WHAT HE'S LOOKIN' FOR, THAT'S JUST WHAT HE'S GONNA GET!
I BEEN PRACTICIN' UP FOR THIS LITTLE REMATCH FOR A LONG TIME!
SO SAVE YER BREATH, STRETCHO...

...I'LL GO CHECK THINGS OUT FOR YA!

ELEVATOR COMING DOWN AT HULK-- FAST!
ENEMIES MUST KNOW THAT HULK IS HERE-- AND THEY'RE ATTACKING HIM!
BUT, HULK HAS AN ANSWER FOR THEM--

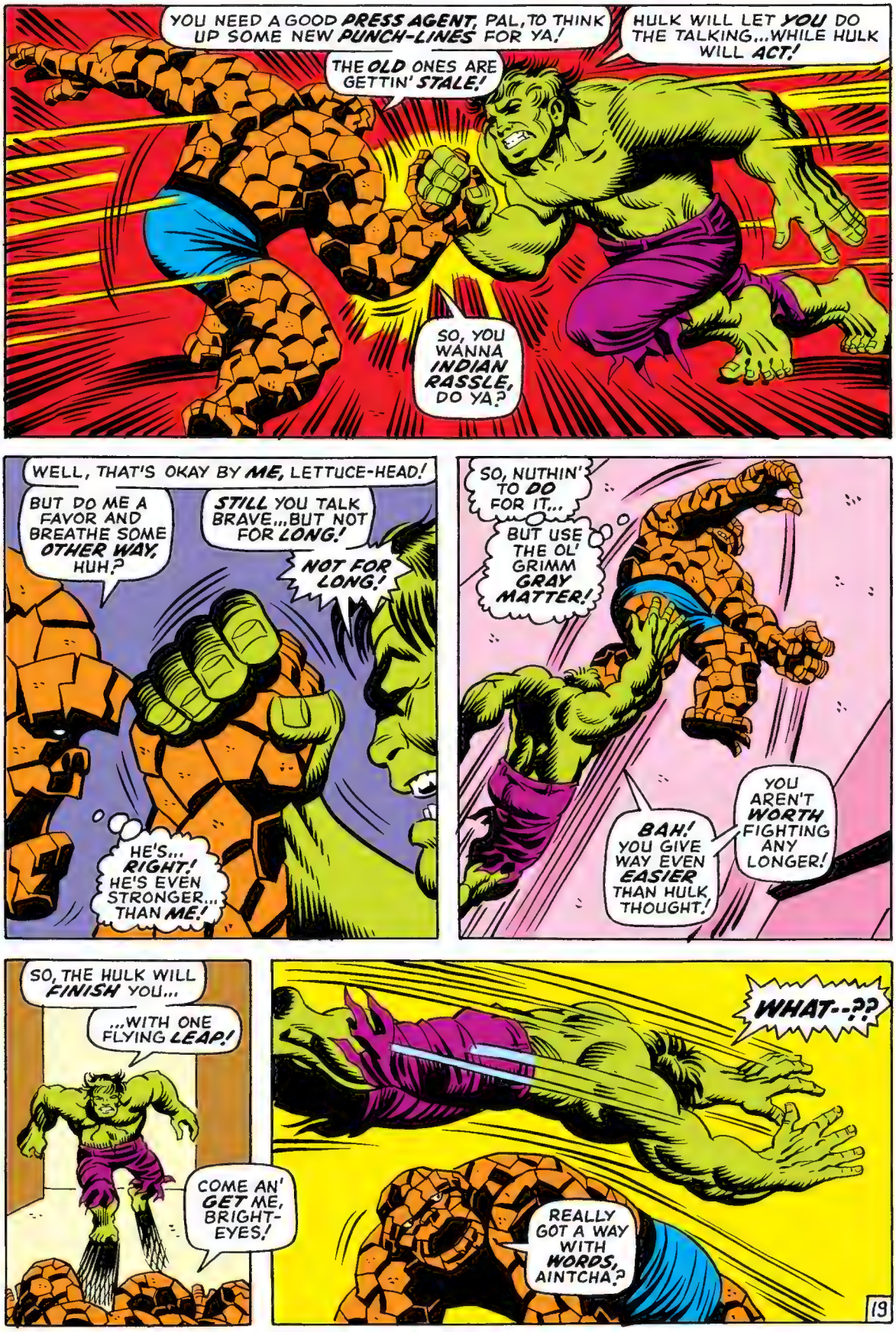
THA-BOOM!
--AND IT'S THIS!!

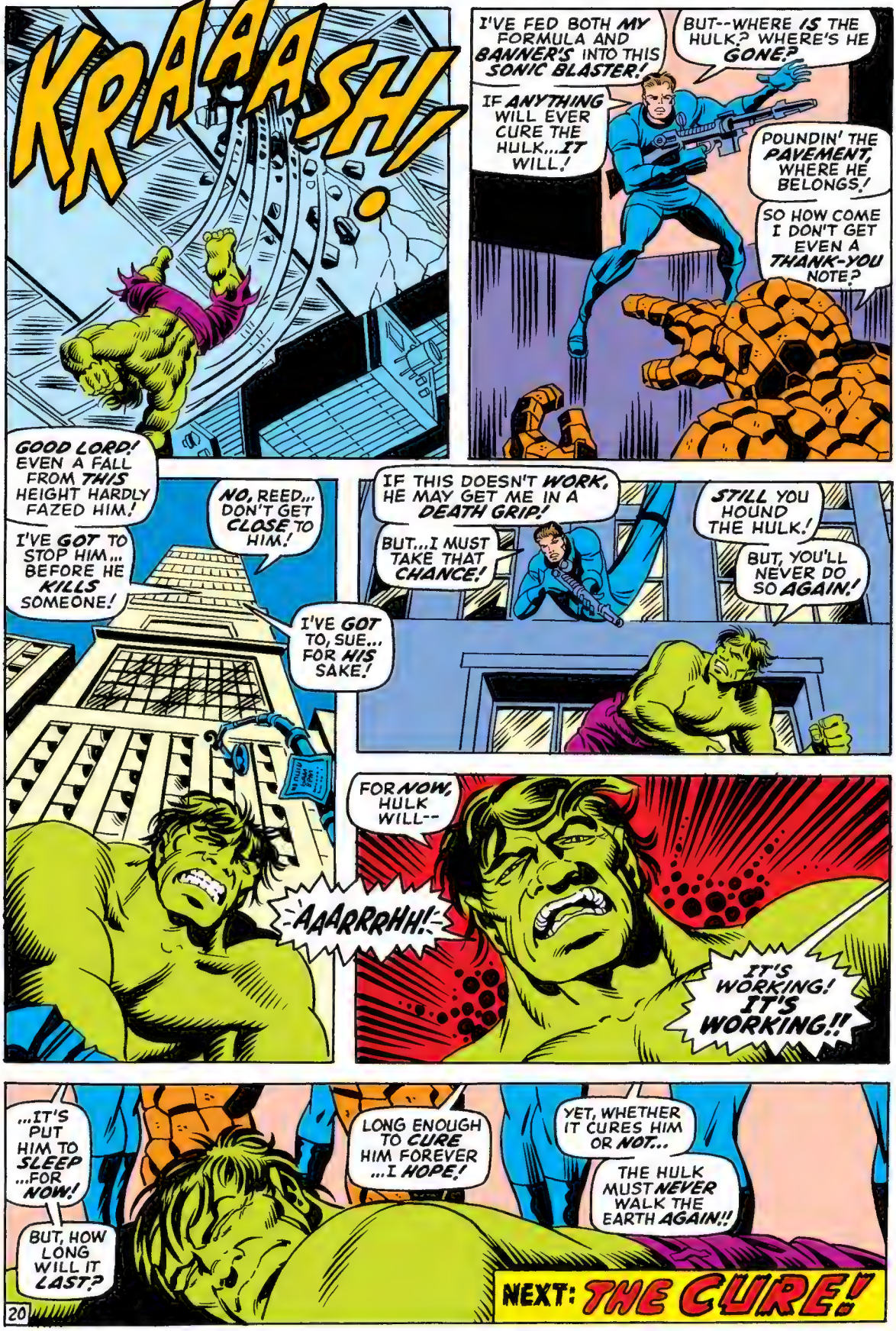

HULK STOPPED THE ELEVATOR--
BUT HE DIDN'T SMASH IT!
WHAM!
THEN-- HULK MUST HIT IT AGAIN!!
THAT HARE-BRAINED BOZO KNOCKED THE WHOLE BLAMED CAR CLEAN THRU THE ROOF!
BUT I'LL BE BACK, GREEN-SKIN!
YOU CAN MAKE BOOK ON IT!
THAT THUNDERING SOUND-- IT CAME FROM THE ELEVATOR SHAFT!
STAND BACK --I'M GOING TO THROW IT OPEN!
WAIT! THAT NOISE --THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE THE SHAFT!
HAH! TOP FLOOR IS JUST ABOVE!
STILL WISH HULK COULD REMEMBER WHY HE CAME HERE!
BUT WHY ELSE COULD IT BE-- BUT TO CRUSH HIS ENEMIES?
IT'S-- THE HULK!
BUT, WE SAW BEN GO IN THERE--ONLY MOMENTS AGO!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE THING??
15

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE ONE CALLED THE THING!
WORRY ABOUT... WHAT HULK WILL DO TO YOU!
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHY HE'S HERE...NOT AT ALL!
JOHNNY...TRY TO DELAY HIM FOR A MOMENT!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, BOSS-MAN!
THEY'VE SET UP A WALL OF FLAME... TO IMPRISON HULK!
BUT, FLAMES CAN BE SNUFFED OUT!!
WHROOOM!
HE EXTINGUISHED JOHNNY'S FLAME...JUST BY CLAPPING HIS HANDS!
MACHINES MUST BE IN THERE!
NOW HE'S HEADING FOR OUR LABS!
IT'S THEM THAT ALWAYS HURT HULK!
REED! WHAT'S THAT POUCH THAT DROPPED FROM THE HULK'S WAIST?
IT MUST BE SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
...OR IT WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN PLACED THERE!
AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT FOR NOW, HONEY!
AS YOU CAN SEE...I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL!
AAARRAH!
16

REED CAN'T STOP THAT RAMPAGING MONSTER...NOT FOR LONG...NOT WITH THE HULK'S SHEER POWER!
WHY, THEN, DOES THIS POUCH FASCINATE ME SO...AS IF IT HOLDS SOME SECRET WE MUST KNOW?
YOU'RE TALKING CRAZY, SIS!
WHY WOULD THE HULK TIE ANY-THING TO HIS WAIST?
BUT WHAT IF IT WAS PUT THERE BY... BRUCE BANNER?
BANNER! ALWAYS BANNER!
HOW HULK HATES THE SOUND OF THAT NAME!
SUE, DARLING... THAT'S IT!
WHATEVER'S INSIDE THAT POUCH...BANNER MUST HAVE PUT THERE!
OPEN IT... QUICKLY!
HAH! YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT YOUR MIND ON BATTLE, LITTLE MAN!
NOW HULK WILL SQUASH YOU, LIKE AN EGGSHELL!
GOT TO FLATTEN MYSELF... REDUCE THE IMPACT!
REED...YOU WERE RIGHT!
THERE'S A PAPER INSIDE...WITH SOME SORT OF FORMULA!
BANNER MUST HAVE SCRIBBLED SOME ADDENDA TO MY OWN IDEAS... DURING A LUCID MOMENT!
BUT, IT'LL ALL BE FOR NOTHING...IF THE HULK DESTROYS ALL MY LAB EQUIPMENT!
AND RIGHT NOW...HE'S ALREADY HALFWAY THRU THAT REINFORCED WALL!
AND SOON, HE WILL BE ALL THE WAY THRU IT... FOR NOTHING CAN STOP HULK!
SKRUNCH!
HULK IS THE STRONGEST THERE IS!
NO ONE HAS THE POWER TO STOP HIM-- NO ONE AND NO THING!!

DID I HEAR SOMEBODY CALLIN'?
IN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT...IT'S BEN!
THANK THE LORD YOU'RE OKAY!
BEN... YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!
DON'T TALK ...JUST DO AS I SAY!
YOU'VE GOT TO HOLD THE HULK AT BAY, WHILE I GO AROUND TO OUR BIO-LAB!
YOU CAN DO IT, OLD FRIEND-- YOU'VE GOT TO!!
HOW COME EVERY TIME YA NEED SOMETHIN' DONE AROUND HERE...
...SUDDENLY IT'S THAT "OLD FRIEND" ROUTINE!?
OH WELL, IT AINT TIME YET FOR MY BEAUTY SLEEP, SO I GUESS--
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!!
OOOOF!
THIS IS JUST LIKE HITTIN' A BRICK WALL...
...AND KNOCKIN' IT THRU A BRICK WALL!
BTAM!
YOU ARE STRONG, THING!
BUT NOT AS STRONG AS THE HULK!
NOTHING IS AS STRONG AS THE HULK!!

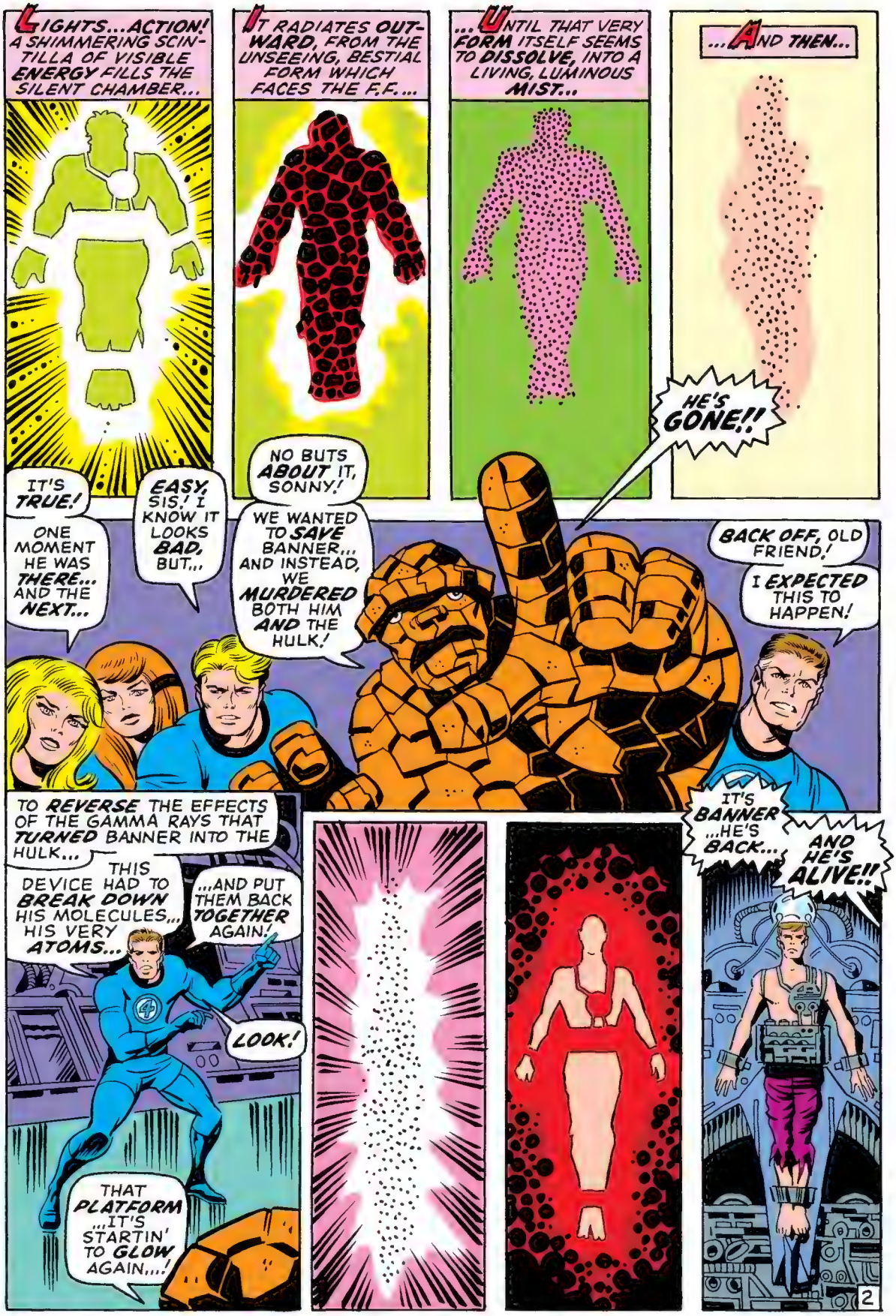

YOU NEED A GOOD PRESS AGENT, PAL, TO THINK UP SOME NEW PUNCH-LINES FOR YA!
HULK WILL LET YOU DO THE TALKING...WHILE HULK WILL ACT!
THE OLD ONES ARE GETTIN' STALE!
SO, YOU WANNA INDIAN RASSLE, DO YA?
WELL, THAT'S OKAY BY ME, LETTUCE-HEAD!
BUT DO ME A FAVOR AND BREATHE SOME OTHER WAY, HUH?
STILL YOU TALK BRAVE...BUT NOT FOR LONG!
NOT FOR LONG!
HE'S... RIGHT! HE'S EVEN STRONGER... THAN ME!
SO, NUTHIN' TO DO FOR IT...
BUT USE THE OL' GRIMM GRAY MATTER!
BAH! YOU GIVE WAY EVEN EASIER THAN HULK THOUGHT!
YOU AREN'T WORTH FIGHTING ANY LONGER!
SO, THE HULK WILL FINISH YOU...
...WITH ONE FLYING LEAP!
COME AN' GET ME, BRIGHT-EYES!
WHAT--??
REALLY GOT A WAY WITH WORDS, AINTCHA?
19

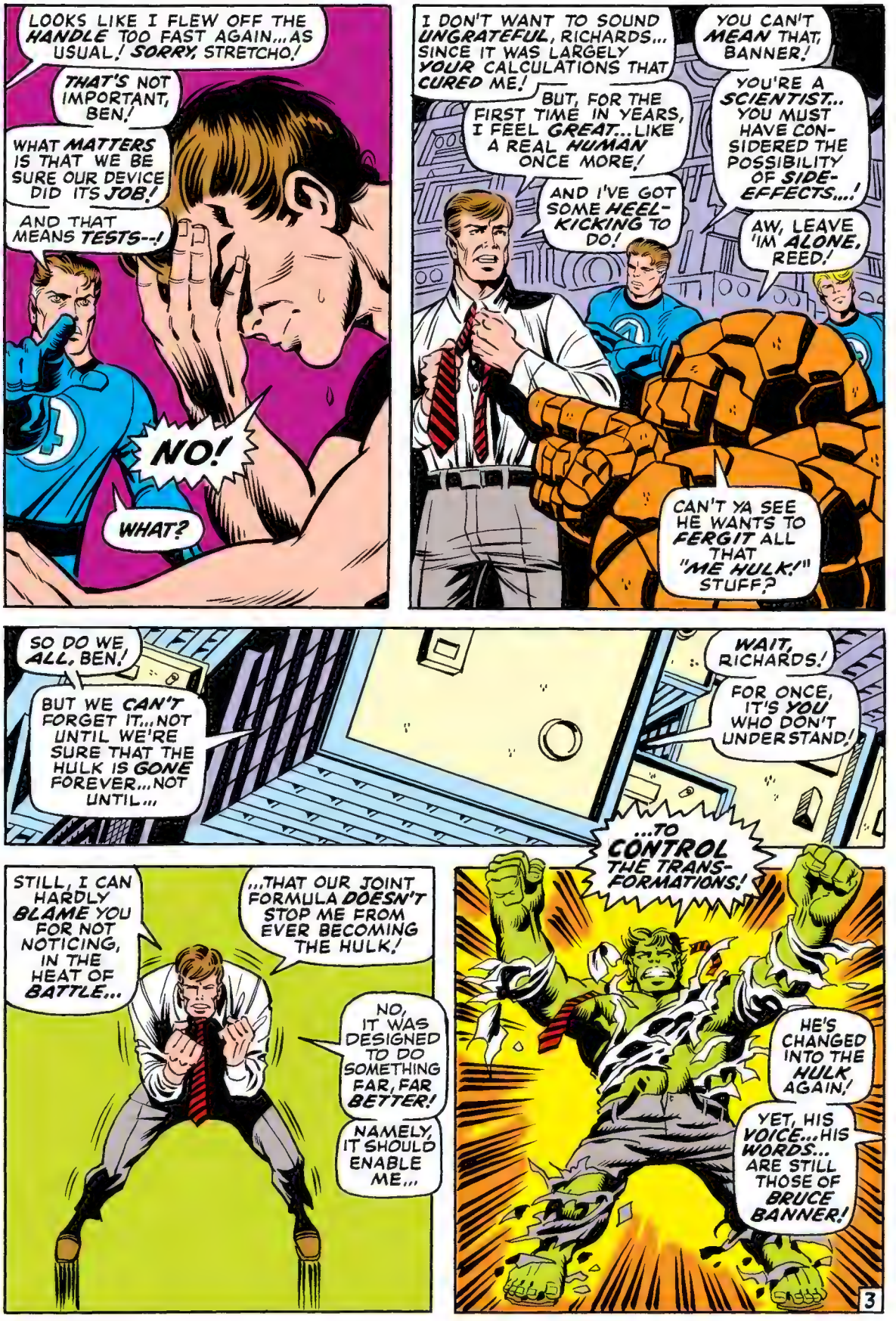

KRAAASH!
I'VE FED BOTH MY FORMULA AND BANNER'S INTO THIS SONIC BLASTER!
BUT--WHERE IS THE HULK? WHERE'S HE GONE?
IF ANYTHING WILL EVER CURE THE HULK...IT WILL!
POUNDIN' THE PAVEMENT, WHERE HE BELONGS!
SO HOW COME I DON'T GET EVEN A THANK-YOU NOTE?
GOOD LORD! EVEN A FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT HARDLY FAZED HIM!
I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM... BEFORE HE KILLS SOMEONE!
NO, REED... DON'T GET CLOSE TO HIM!
I'VE GOT TO, SUE... FOR HIS SAKE!
IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, HE MAY GET ME IN A DEATH GRIP!
BUT...I MUST TAKE THAT CHANCE!
STILL YOU HOUND THE HULK!
BUT, YOU'LL NEVER DO SO AGAIN!
FOR NOW, HULK WILL--
-AAARRRHH!-
IT'S WORKING! IT'S WORKING!!
...IT'S PUT HIM TO SLEEP ...FOR NOW!
BUT, HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?
LONG ENOUGH TO CURE HIM FOREVER ...I HOPE!
YET, WHETHER IT CURES HIM OR NOT...
THE HULK MUST NEVER WALK THE EARTH AGAIN!!
NEXT: THE CURE!

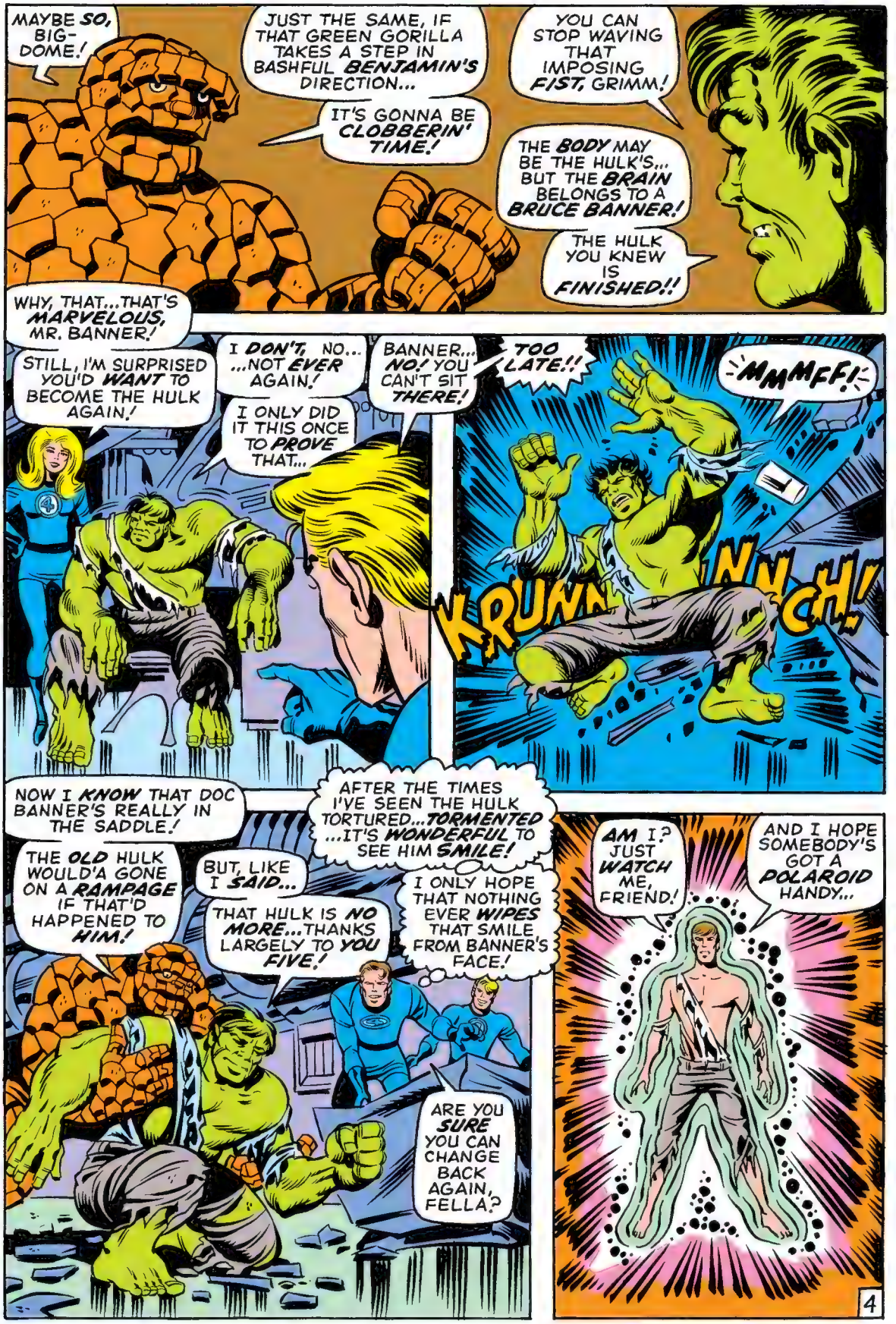
INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
123
JAN
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
LOOK OUT FOR... THE LEADER!
THE MONSTER AND THE MURDER MODULE!
TRIMPE

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

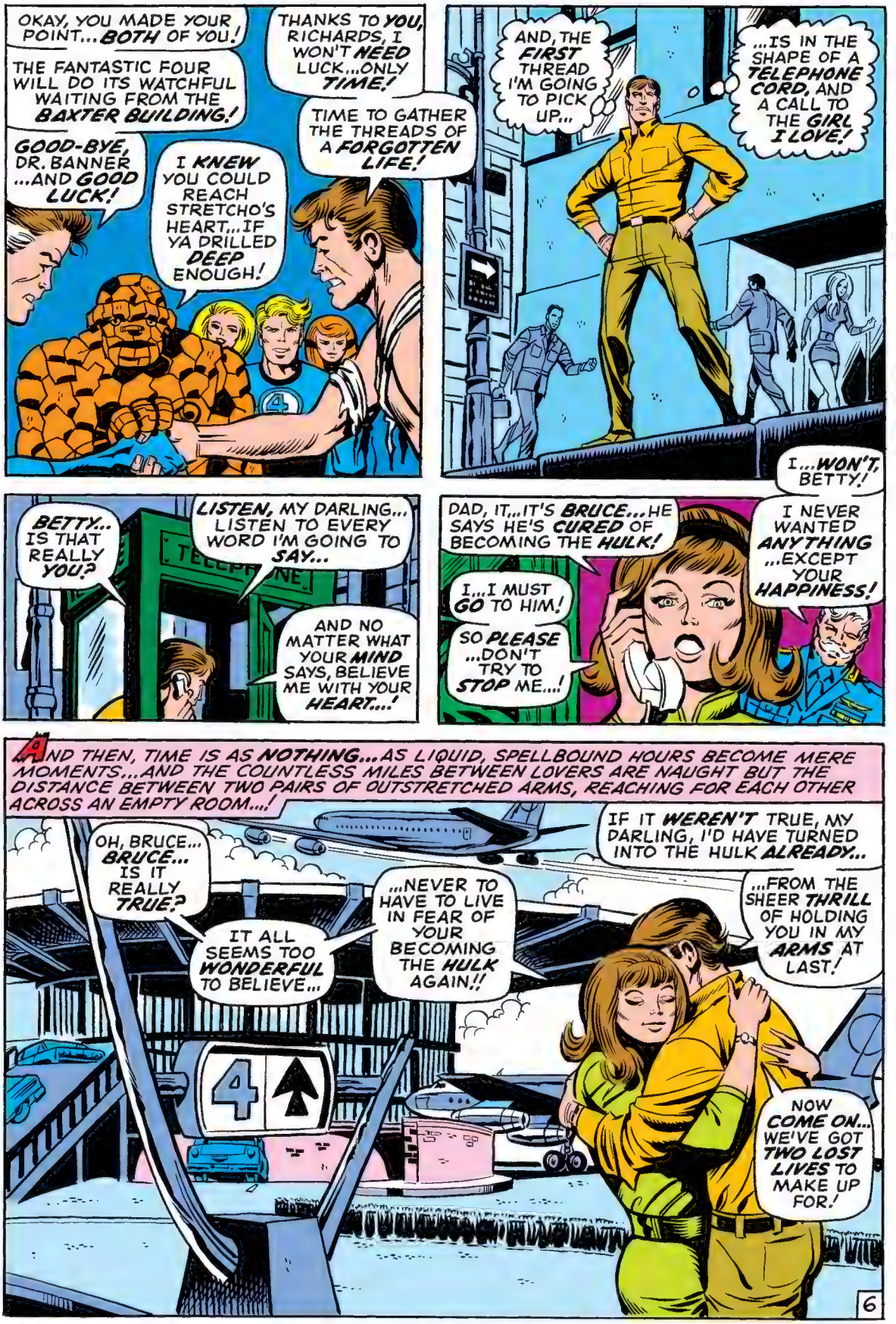
THE HULK IS A CAPTIVE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR! AND NOW, BEHIND THE REINFORCED RAMPARTS OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS BAXTER BUILDING...
NO MORE THE MONSTER!!
A TURNING-POINT TOUR DE FORCE BY!
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
HERB TRIMPE ARTIST
AND, OF COURSE, ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER
IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY, I TELL YOU...
AND I'M TAKING IT!
BUT, REED... YOU YOURSELF SAID THAT, IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG...
YOUR EXPERIMENT WILL DESTROY THE MAN INSIDE THE MONSTER!
YEAH! WHAT ABOUT THAT, STRETCHO?
JOHNNY... BEN... IT WAS BRUCE BANNER WHO SUPPLIED THE FINAL DATA I NEEDED FOR THIS DEVICE!
I THINK HE WANTED US TO TAKE A CHANCE ON IT!
AND, IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO TAKE THAT CHANCE...
IT'S GOT TO BE... NOW!!
FT!K!

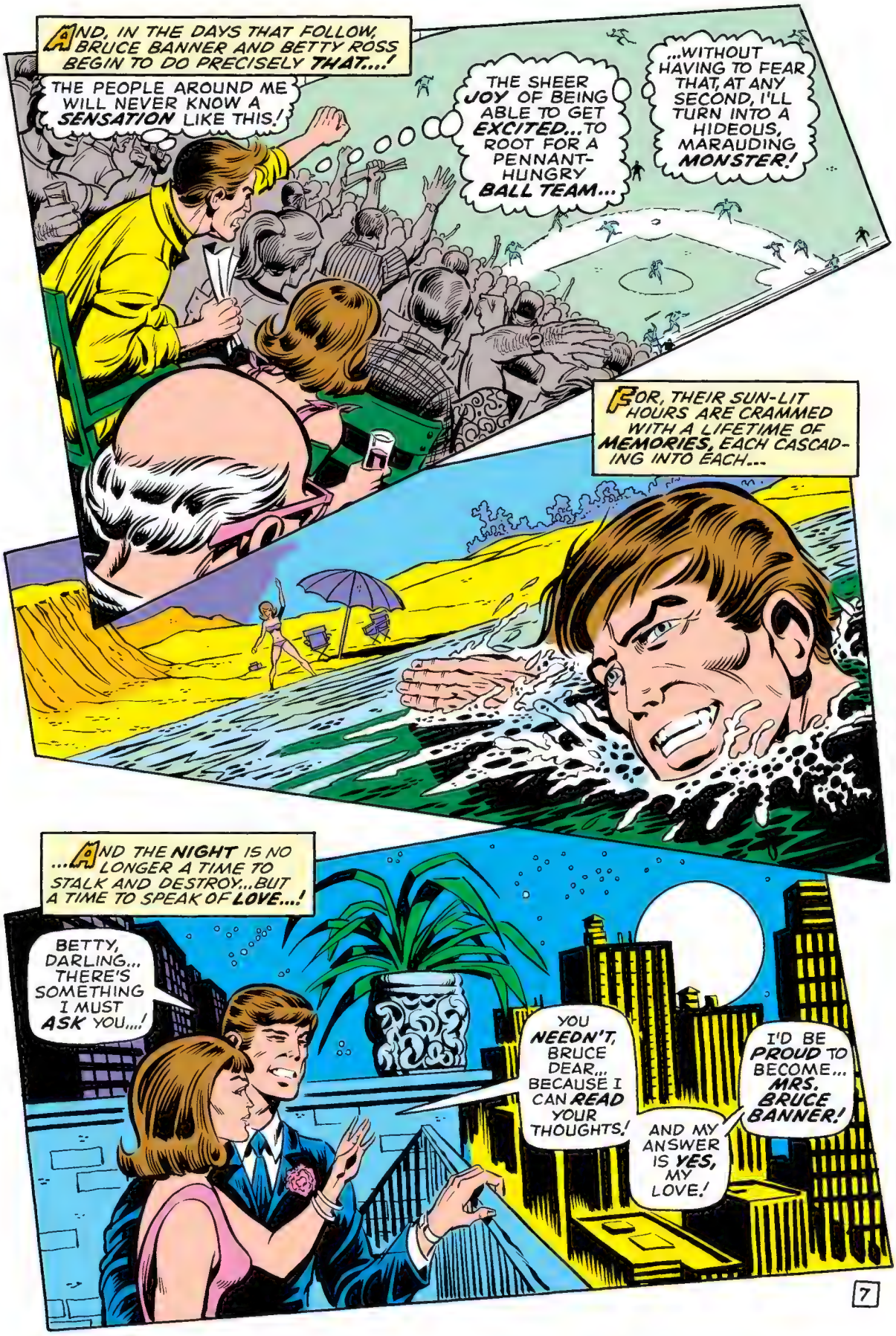

LIGHTS...ACTION! A SHIMMERING SCINTILLA OF VISIBLE ENERGY FILLS THE SILENT CHAMBER...
IT RADIATES OUTWARD, FROM THE UNSEEING, BESTIAL FORM WHICH FACES THE F.F....
...UNTIL THAT VERY FORM ITSELF SEEMS TO DISSOLVE, INTO A LIVING, LUMINOUS MIST...
...AND THEN...
HE'S GONE!!
IT'S TRUE! ONE MOMENT HE WAS THERE... AND THE NEXT...
EASY, SIS! I KNOW IT LOOKS BAD, BUT...
NO BUTS ABOUT IT, SONNY! WE WANTED TO SAVE BANNER... AND INSTEAD, WE MURDERED BOTH HIM AND THE HULK!
BACK OFF, OLD FRIEND! I EXPECTED THIS TO HAPPEN!
TO REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF THE GAMMA RAYS THAT TURNED BANNER INTO THE HULK...
THIS DEVICE HAD TO BREAK DOWN HIS MOLECULES... HIS VERY ATOMS...
...AND PUT THEM BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!
LOOK!
THAT PLATFORM ...IT'S STARTIN' TO GLOW AGAIN...!
IT'S BANNER ...HE'S BACK...
AND HE'S ALIVE!!
2


LOOKS LIKE I FLEW OFF THE HANDLE TOO FAST AGAIN...AS USUAL! SORRY, STRETCHO!
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT, BEN!
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT WE BE SURE OUR DEVICE DID ITS JOB!
AND THAT MEANS TESTS--!
NO!
WHAT?
I DON'T WANT TO SOUND UNGRATEFUL, RICHARDS... SINCE IT WAS LARGELY YOUR CALCULATIONS THAT CURED ME!
BUT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, I FEEL GREAT...LIKE A REAL HUMAN ONCE MORE!
AND I'VE GOT SOME HEEL-KICKING TO DO!
YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT, BANNER!
YOU'RE A SCIENTIST... YOU MUST HAVE CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF SIDE-EFFECTS...!
AW, LEAVE 'IM ALONE, REED!
CAN'T YA SEE HE WANTS TO FERGIT ALL THAT "ME HULK!" STUFF?
SO DO WE ALL, BEN!
BUT WE CAN'T FORGET IT...NOT UNTIL WE'RE SURE THAT THE HULK IS GONE FOREVER...NOT UNTIL...
WAIT, RICHARDS!
FOR ONCE, IT'S YOU WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND!
STILL, I CAN HARDLY BLAME YOU FOR NOT NOTICING, IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE...
...THAT OUR JOINT FORMULA DOESN'T STOP ME FROM EVER BECOMING THE HULK!
NO, IT WAS DESIGNED TO DO SOMETHING FAR, FAR BETTER!
NAMELY, IT SHOULD ENABLE ME...
...TO CONTROL THE TRANS-FORMATIONS!
HE'S CHANGED INTO THE HULK AGAIN!
YET, HIS VOICE...HIS WORDS... ARE STILL THOSE OF BRUCE BANNER!
3

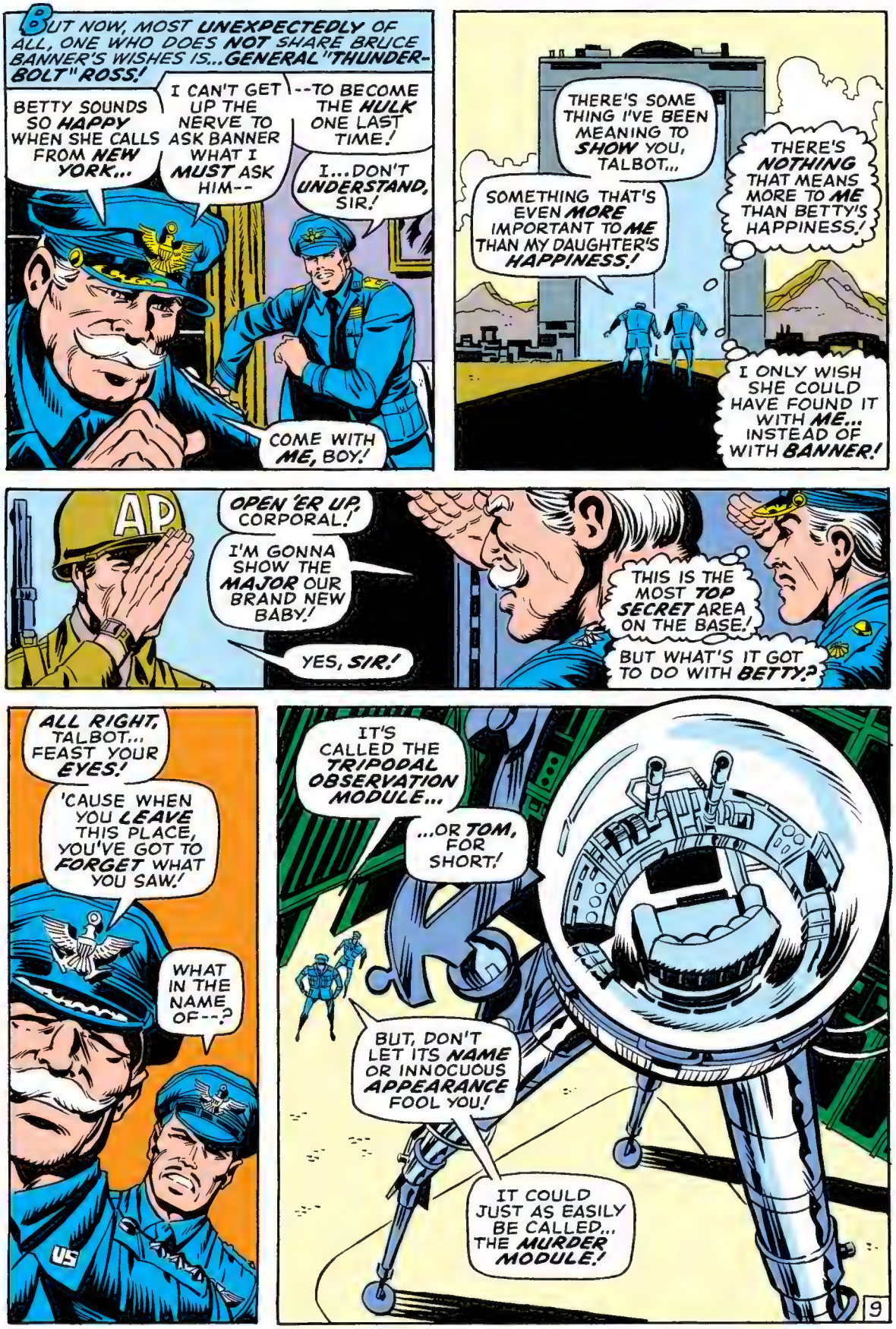

MAYBE SO, BIG-DOME!
JUST THE SAME, IF THAT GREEN GORILLA TAKES A STEP IN BASHFUL BENJAMIN'S DIRECTION...
IT'S GONNA BE CLOBBERIN' TIME!
YOU CAN STOP WAVING THAT IMPOSING FIST, GRIMM!
THE BODY MAY BE THE HULK'S... BUT THE BRAIN BELONGS TO A BRUCE BANNER!
THE HULK YOU KNEW IS FINISHED!!
WHY, THAT...THAT'S MARVELOUS, MR. BANNER!
STILL, I'M SURPRISED YOU'D WANT TO BECOME THE HULK AGAIN!
I DON'T, NO... ...NOT EVER AGAIN!
I ONLY DID IT THIS ONCE TO PROVE THAT...
BANNER... NO! YOU CAN'T SIT THERE!
TOO LATE!!
MMMFF!
KRUNN
NNCH!
NOW I KNOW THAT DOC BANNER'S REALLY IN THE SADDLE!
THE OLD HULK WOULD'A GONE ON A RAMPAGE IF THAT'D HAPPENED TO HIM!
BUT, LIKE I SAID...
AFTER THE TIMES I'VE SEEN THE HULK TORTURED...TORMENTED ...IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE HIM SMILE!
THAT HULK IS NO MORE...THANKS LARGELY TO YOU FIVE!
I ONLY HOPE THAT NOTHING EVER WIPES THAT SMILE FROM BANNER'S FACE!
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN CHANGE BACK AGAIN, FELLA?
AM I? JUST WATCH ME, FRIEND!
AND I HOPE SOMEBODY'S GOT A POLAROID HANDY...
4

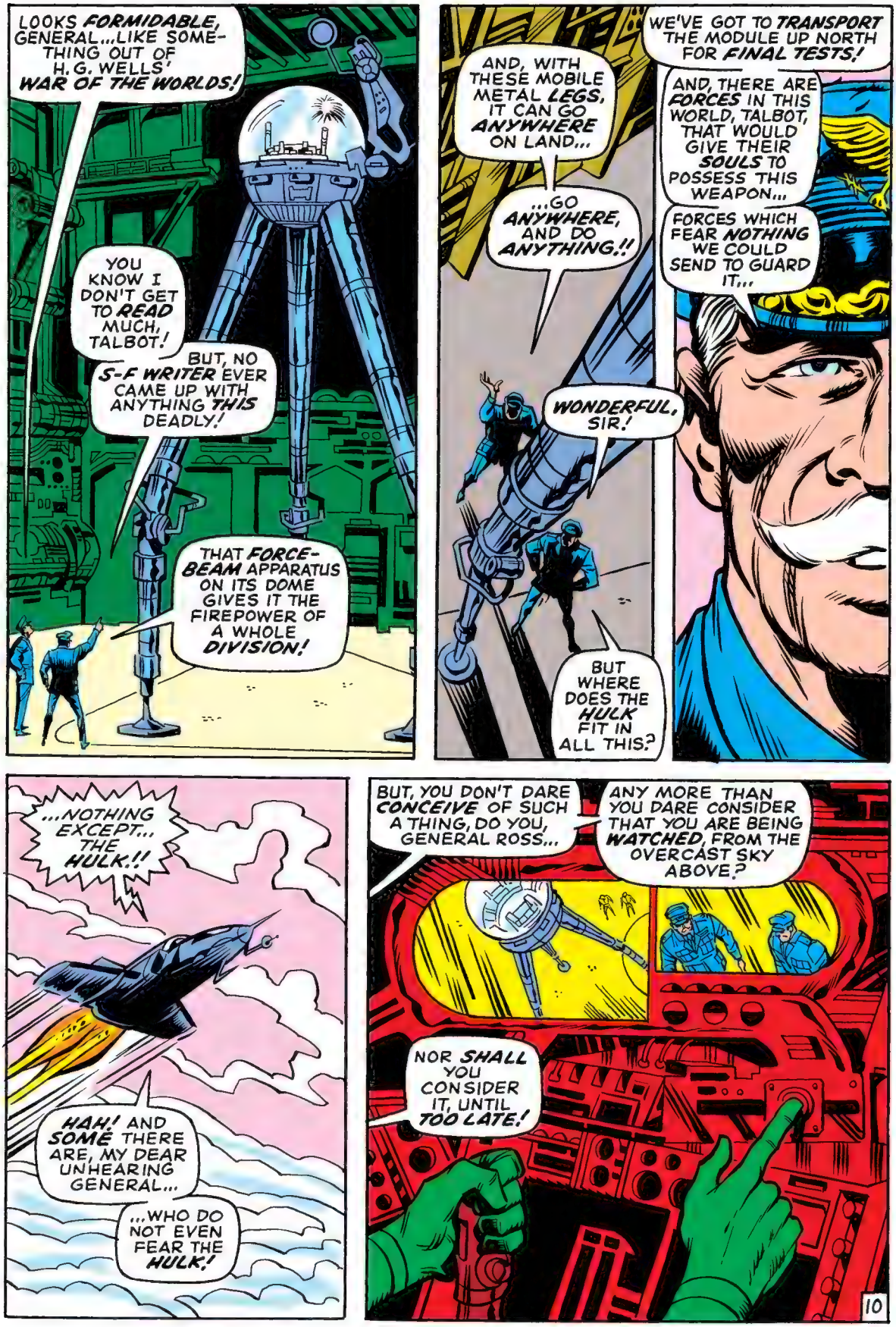
...BECAUSE YOU JUST WITNESSED THE END OF AN ERA!
I'LL NEVER BECOME THE HULK AGAIN... YOU CAN MAKE BOOK ON IT!
WE'RE WITH YOU, DOC...JUST THE SAME, REED'S GOT A POINT IN WHAT HE SAID A MINUTE AGO!
YOU NEED SOMEBODY TO WATCH OVER YOU, TILL WE'RE POSITIVE YOU'RE CURED!
AND, WHO CAN SHED MORE LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT THAN---
...THE HUMAN TORCH!
HUH.? BEN...WHY'RE YOU BLOCKIN' MY PATH.?
'CAUSE I DECIDED IT'S TIME THE THING TOOK A HAND!
DOC BANNER'S WALKIN' OUTTA HERE... WITHOUT NO BLAMED SHADOW!
LOOK, I AINT NEVER BEEN LONG ON SPEECHES... BUT I GOT ME SOMETHIN' TO SAY!
SINCE HE GOT ZAPPED BY GAMMA RAYS, BANNER'S BEEN HOUNDED BY THE ARMY ...THE NAVY...AND EVERY BLASTED SUPERHERO THIS SIDE'A DOC SAVAGE!
THANKS, FRIEND!
IF HE WANTS TO CUT OUT, I SAY...LET 'IM GO IN PEACE!
AND NOW, I'LL MAKE YOU A VOW...
...THAT I'LL NEVER GIVE UP TRYING, TILL I FIND THE FORMULA THAT WILL TURN YOU BACK INTO A NORMAL MAN AGAIN!

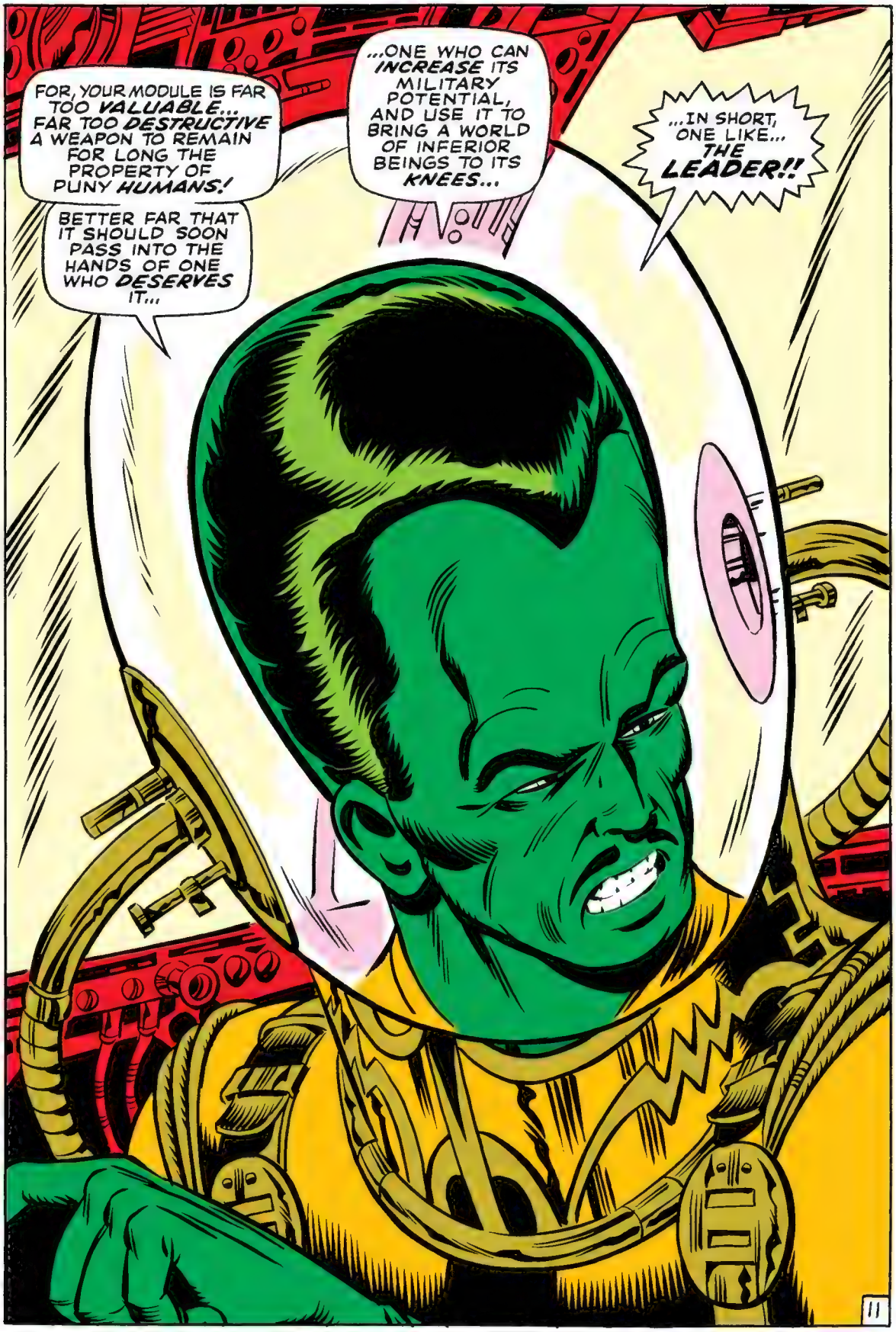

OKAY, YOU MADE YOUR POINT... BOTH OF YOU!
THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL DO ITS WATCHFUL WAITING FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING!
GOOD-BYE, DR. BANNER ...AND GOOD LUCK!
I KNEW YOU COULD REACH STRETCHO'S HEART...IF YA DRILLED DEEP ENOUGH!
THANKS TO YOU, RICHARDS, I WON'T NEED LUCK...ONLY TIME!
TIME TO GATHER THE THREADS OF A FORGOTTEN LIFE!
AND, THE FIRST THREAD I'M GOING TO PICK UP...
...IS IN THE SHAPE OF A TELEPHONE CORD, AND A CALL TO THE GIRL I LOVE!
I...WON'T, BETTY!
BETTY... IS THAT REALLY YOU?
LISTEN, MY DARLING... LISTEN TO EVERY WORD I'M GOING TO SAY...
AND NO MATTER WHAT YOUR MIND SAYS, BELIEVE ME WITH YOUR HEART...!
DAD, IT...IT'S BRUCE...HE SAYS HE'S CURED OF BECOMING THE HULK!
I...I MUST GO TO HIM!
SO PLEASE ...DON'T TRY TO STOP ME...!
I NEVER WANTED ANYTHING ...EXCEPT YOUR HAPPINESS!
AND THEN, TIME IS AS NOTHING...AS LIQUID, SPELLBOUND HOURS BECOME MERE MOMENTS...AND THE COUNTLESS MILES BETWEEN LOVERS ARE NAUGHT BUT THE DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO PAIRS OF OUTSTRETCHED ARMS, REACHING FOR EACH OTHER ACROSS AN EMPTY ROOM...!
OH, BRUCE... BRUCE... IS IT REALLY TRUE?
IT ALL SEEMS TOO WONDERFUL TO BELIEVE...
...NEVER TO HAVE TO LIVE IN FEAR OF YOUR BECOMING THE HULK AGAIN!!
IF IT WEREN'T TRUE, MY DARLING, I'D HAVE TURNED INTO THE HULK ALREADY...
...FROM THE SHEER THRILL OF HOLDING YOU IN MY ARMS AT LAST!
NOW COME ON... WE'VE GOT TWO LOST LIVES TO MAKE UP FOR!
4
6

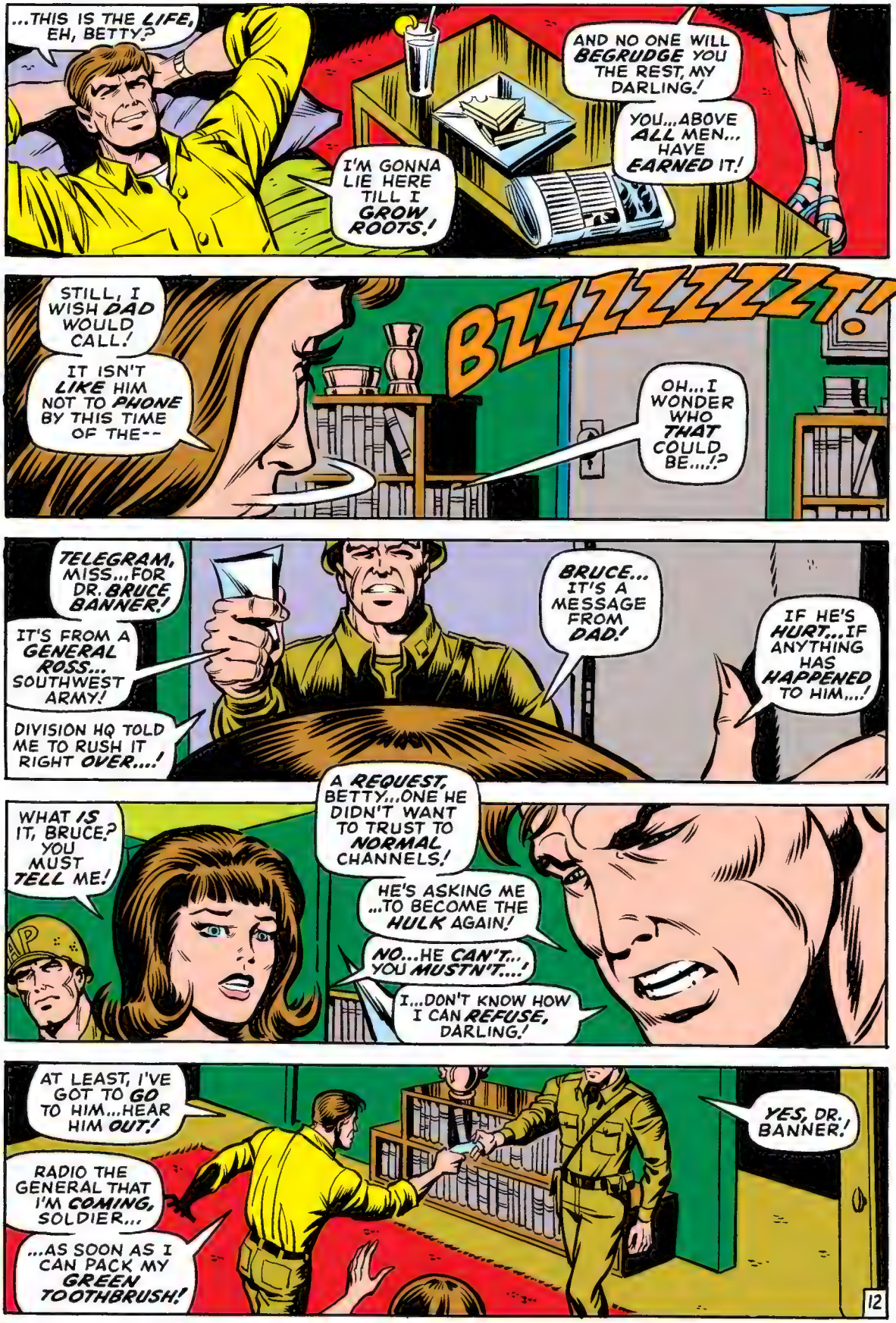

AND, IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, BRUCE BANNER AND BETTY ROSS BEGIN TO DO PRECISELY THAT....!
THE PEOPLE AROUND ME WILL NEVER KNOW A SENSATION LIKE THIS!
THE SHEER JOY OF BEING ABLE TO GET EXCITED...TO ROOT FOR A PENNANT-HUNGRY BALL TEAM...
...WITHOUT HAVING TO FEAR THAT, AT ANY SECOND, I'LL TURN INTO A HIDEOUS, MARAUDING MONSTER!
FOR, THEIR SUN-LIT HOURS ARE CRAMMED WITH A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES, EACH CASCADING INTO EACH...
...AND THE NIGHT IS NO LONGER A TIME TO STALK AND DESTROY...BUT A TIME TO SPEAK OF LOVE...!
BETTY, DARLING... THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST ASK YOU...!
YOU NEEDN'T, BRUCE DEAR... BECAUSE I CAN READ YOUR THOUGHTS!
AND MY ANSWER IS YES, MY LOVE!
I'D BE PROUD TO BECOME... MRS. BRUCE BANNER!

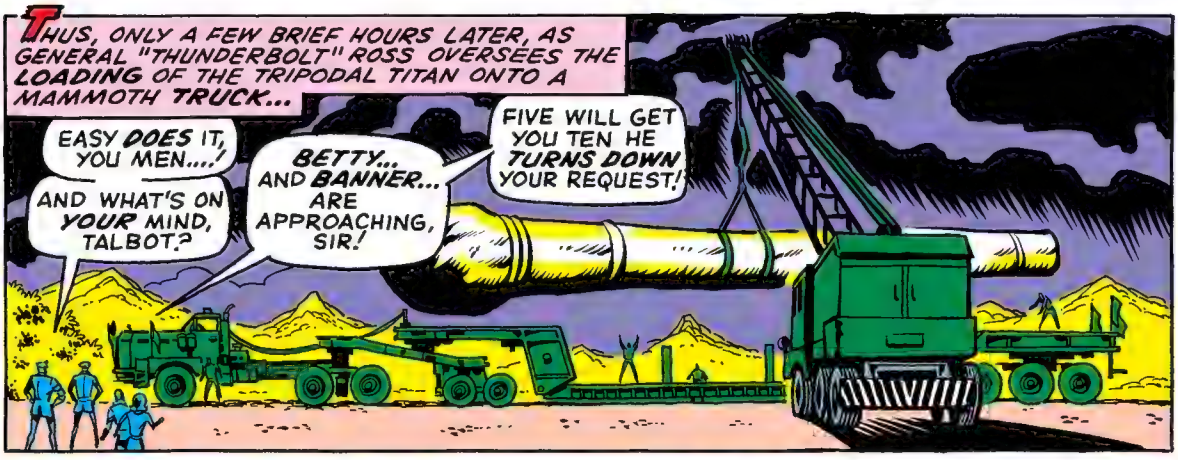
BUT, THE OLD FEARS DIE HARD... AND MORE THAN ONCE, IN THE DARK OF NIGHT, BRUCE BANNER AWAKENS WITH A START, AS IF SOME OMINOUS PRESENCE WERE LURKING NEARBY...
...AS IF, SOMEWHERE IN THE DEEP RECESSES OF HIS MIND, THERE STILL LIVED... THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
I'LL NEVER BECOME THE HULK AGAIN... NEVER!
THERE'S ALWAYS THE CHANCE... JUST THE GHOST OF A CHANCE... THAT THE SAVAGE, BESTIAL SIDE OF HIM MIGHT RETURN!
AND IF IT DID... IF IT EVER CAUSED ME TO HARM BETTY...
NO! I MUSTN'T ALLOW MYSELF EVEN TO THINK SUCH THOUGHTS!
BETTY IS MY LIFE... SO THE HULK MUST REMAIN DEAD!!


BUT NOW, MOST UNEXPECTEDLY OF ALL, ONE WHO DOES NOT SHARE BRUCE BANNER'S WISHES IS...GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS!
BETTY SOUNDS SO HAPPY WHEN SHE CALLS FROM NEW YORK...
I CAN'T GET UP THE NERVE TO ASK BANNER WHAT I MUST ASK HIM--
--TO BECOME THE HULK ONE LAST TIME!
I...DON'T UNDERSTAND, SIR!
COME WITH ME, BOY!
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SHOW YOU, TALBOT...
SOMETHING THAT'S EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN MY DAUGHTER'S HAPPINESS!
THERE'S NOTHING THAT MEANS MORE TO ME THAN BETTY'S HAPPINESS!
I ONLY WISH SHE COULD HAVE FOUND IT WITH ME... INSTEAD OF WITH BANNER!
AP
OPEN 'ER UP, CORPORAL!
I'M GONNA SHOW THE MAJOR OUR BRAND NEW BABY!
YES, SIR!
THIS IS THE MOST TOP SECRET AREA ON THE BASE!
BUT WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH BETTY?
ALL RIGHT, TALBOT... FEAST YOUR EYES!
'CAUSE WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS PLACE, YOU'VE GOT TO FORGET WHAT YOU SAW!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?
US
IT'S CALLED THE TRIPODAL OBSERVATION MODULE...
...OR TOM, FOR SHORT!
BUT, DON'T LET ITS NAME OR INNOCUOUS APPEARANCE FOOL YOU!
IT COULD JUST AS EASILY BE CALLED... THE MURDER MODULE!
9

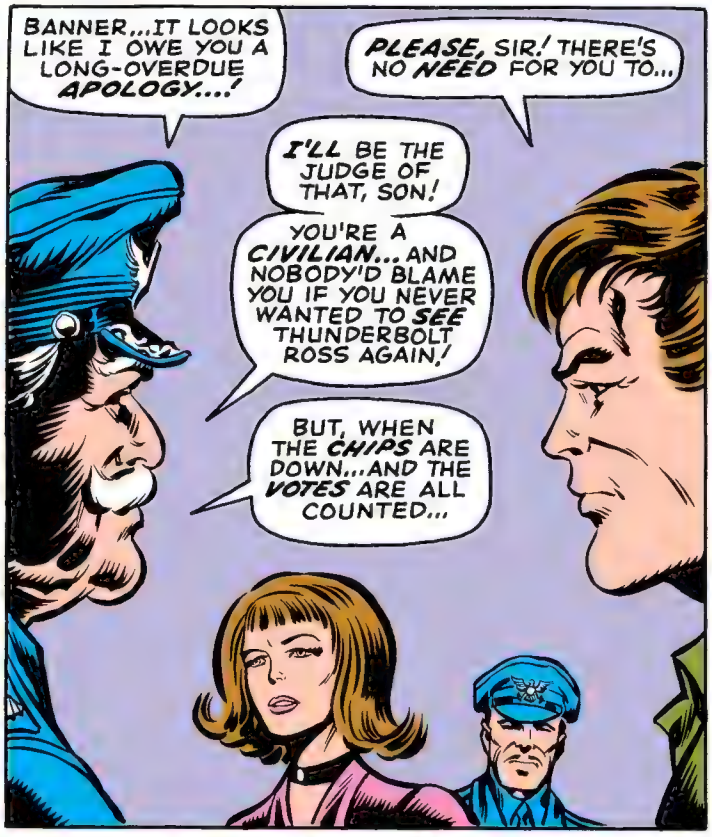

LOOKS FORMIDABLE, GENERAL...LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF H.G. WELLS' WAR OF THE WORLDS!
YOU KNOW I DON'T GET TO READ MUCH, TALBOT!
BUT, NO S-F WRITER EVER CAME UP WITH ANYTHING THIS DEADLY!
THAT FORCE-BEAM APPARATUS ON ITS DOME GIVES IT THE FIREPOWER OF A WHOLE DIVISION!
WE'VE GOT TO TRANSPORT THE MODULE UP NORTH FOR FINAL TESTS!
AND, WITH THESE MOBILE METAL LEGS, IT CAN GO ANYWHERE ON LAND...
...GO ANYWHERE, AND DO ANYTHING!!
AND, THERE ARE FORCES IN THIS WORLD, TALBOT, THAT WOULD GIVE THEIR SOULS TO POSSESS THIS WEAPON...
FORCES WHICH FEAR NOTHING WE COULD SEND TO GUARD IT...
WONDERFUL, SIR!
BUT WHERE DOES THE HULK FIT IN ALL THIS?
...NOTHING EXCEPT... THE HULK!!
HAH! AND SOME THERE ARE, MY DEAR UNHEARING GENERAL...
...WHO DO NOT EVEN FEAR THE HULK!
BUT, YOU DON'T DARE CONCEIVE OF SUCH A THING, DO YOU, GENERAL ROSS...
ANY MORE THAN YOU DARE CONSIDER THAT YOU ARE BEING WATCHED, FROM THE OVERCAST SKY ABOVE?
NOR SHALL YOU CONSIDER IT, UNTIL TOO LATE!


FOR, YOUR MODULE IS FAR TOO VALUABLE... FAR TOO DESTRUCTIVE A WEAPON TO REMAIN FOR LONG THE PROPERTY OF PUNY HUMANS!
BETTER FAR THAT IT SHOULD SOON PASS INTO THE HANDS OF ONE WHO DESERVES IT...
...ONE WHO CAN INCREASE ITS MILITARY POTENTIAL, AND USE IT TO BRING A WORLD OF INFERIOR BEINGS TO ITS KNEES...
...IN SHORT, ONE LIKE... THE LEADER!!
11

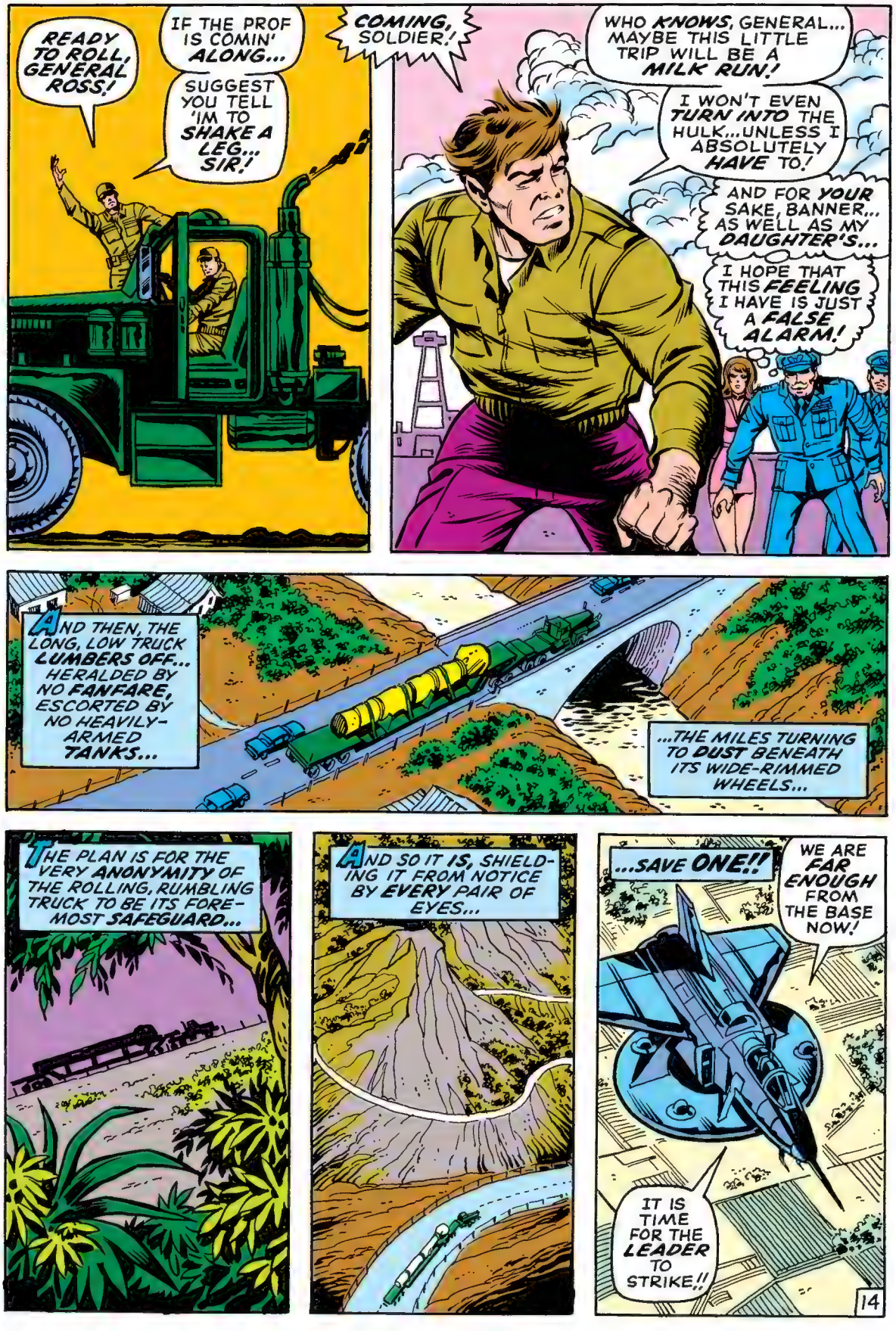

...THIS IS THE LIFE, EH, BETTY?
I'M GONNA LIE HERE TILL I GROW ROOTS!
AND NO ONE WILL BEGRUDGE YOU THE REST, MY DARLING!
YOU...ABOVE ALL MEN... HAVE EARNED IT!
STILL, I WISH DAD WOULD CALL!
IT ISN'T LIKE HIM NOT TO PHONE BY THIS TIME OF THE--
BZZZZZZZT!
OH...I WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE....!?
TELEGRAM, MISS...FOR DR. BRUCE BANNER!
IT'S FROM A GENERAL ROSS... SOUTHWEST ARMY!
DIVISION HQ TOLD ME TO RUSH IT RIGHT OVER....!
BRUCE... IT'S A MESSAGE FROM DAD!
IF HE'S HURT...IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO HIM....!
WHAT IS IT, BRUCE? YOU MUST TELL ME!
A REQUEST, BETTY...ONE HE DIDN'T WANT TO TRUST TO NORMAL CHANNELS!
HE'S ASKING ME ...TO BECOME THE HULK AGAIN!
NO...HE CAN'T... YOU MUSTN'T....!
I...DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN REFUSE, DARLING!
AT LEAST, I'VE GOT TO GO TO HIM...HEAR HIM OUT!
RADIO THE GENERAL THAT I'M COMING, SOLDIER...
...AS SOON AS I CAN PACK MY GREEN TOOTHBRUSH!
YES, DR. BANNER!
12


THUS, ONLY A FEW BRIEF HOURS LATER, AS GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS OVERSEES THE LOADING OF THE TRIPODAL TITAN ONTO A MAMMOTH TRUCK...
EASY DOES IT, YOU MEN....!
AND WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, TALBOT.?
BETTY... AND BANNER... ARE APPROACHING, SIR!
FIVE WILL GET YOU TEN HE TURNS DOWN YOUR REQUEST!

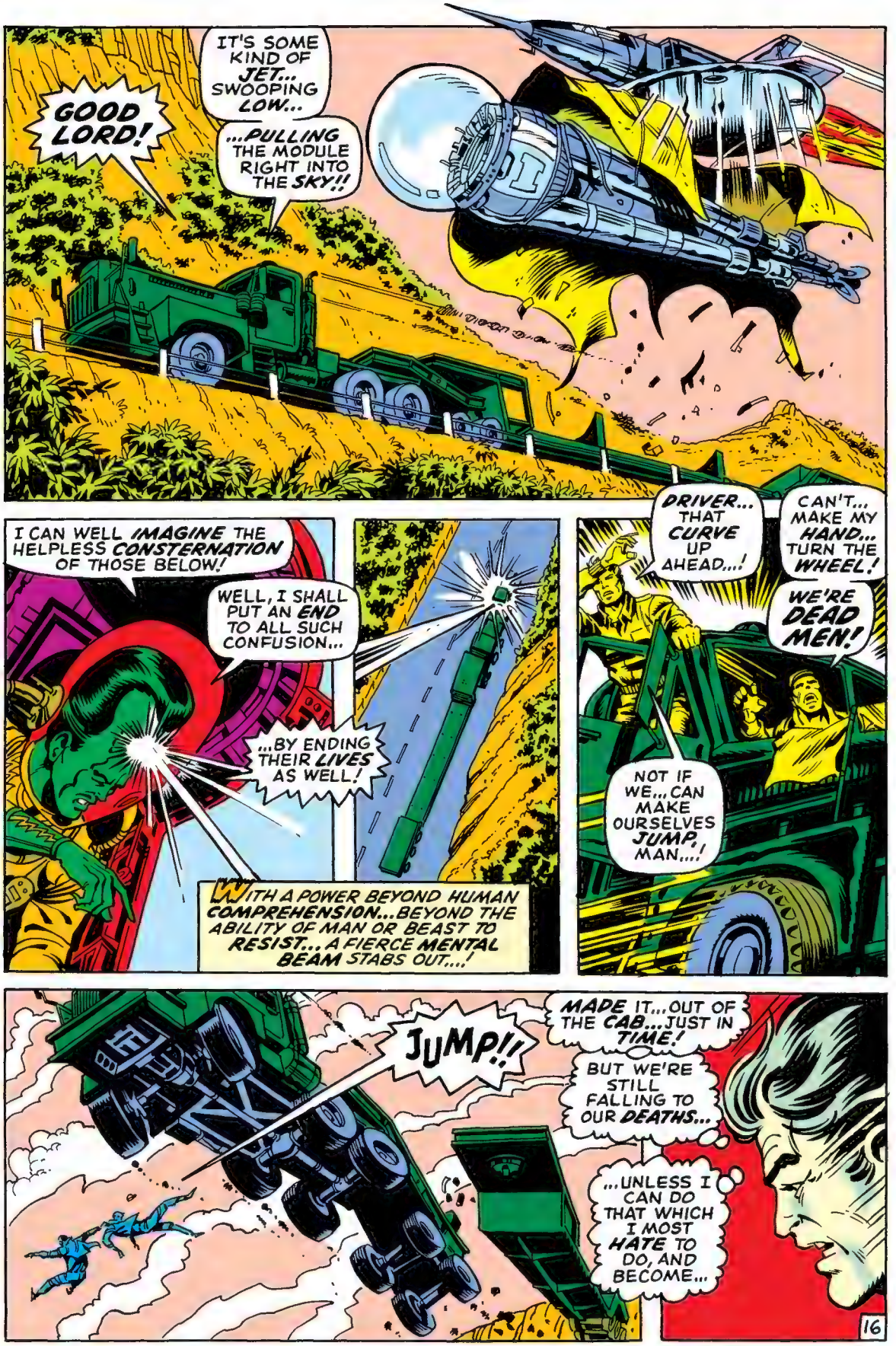
WELL, BANNER... YOU'VE HAD A WHOLE PLANE FLIGHT TO CONSIDER WHAT I ASKED!
THERE'S NO NEED, GENERAL!
BEFORE YOU DECIDE, LET ME TELL YOU JUST HOW VALUABLE THIS MODULE IS...!
I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T ASK ME...WHAT YOU DID...IF IT WEREN'T VITAL TO AMERICA'S SECURITY!
I'LL BECOME THE HULK... ONE LAST TIME!


BANNER...IT LOOKS LIKE I OWE YOU A LONG-OVERDUE APOLOGY...!
PLEASE, SIR! THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO...
I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT, SON!
YOU'RE A CIVILIAN... AND NOBODY'D BLAME YOU IF YOU NEVER WANTED TO SEE THUNDERBOLT ROSS AGAIN!
BUT, WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN...AND THE VOTES ARE ALL COUNTED...

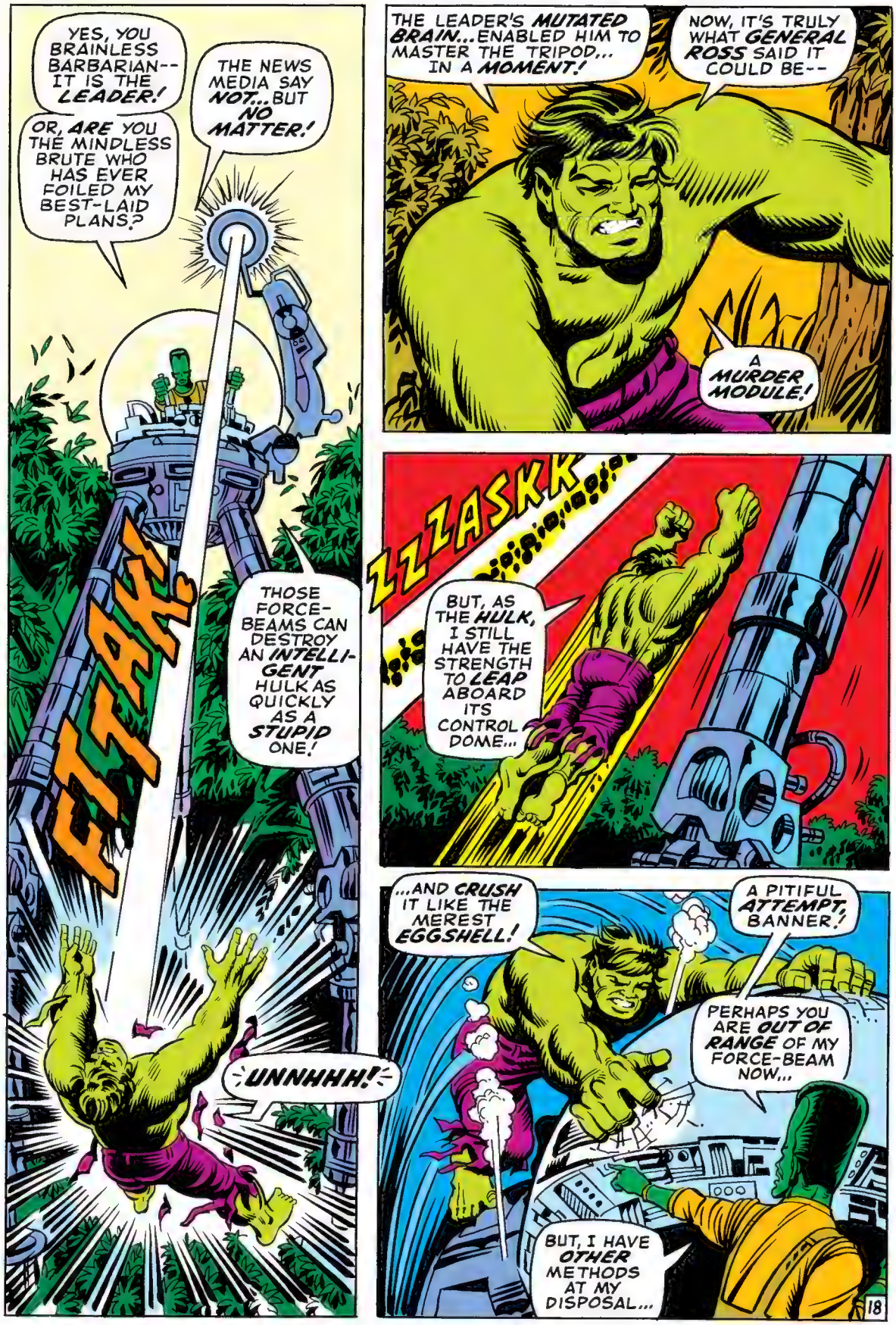
...THEY'LL FIND THAT DR. BRUCE BANNER WAS... A MAN!!

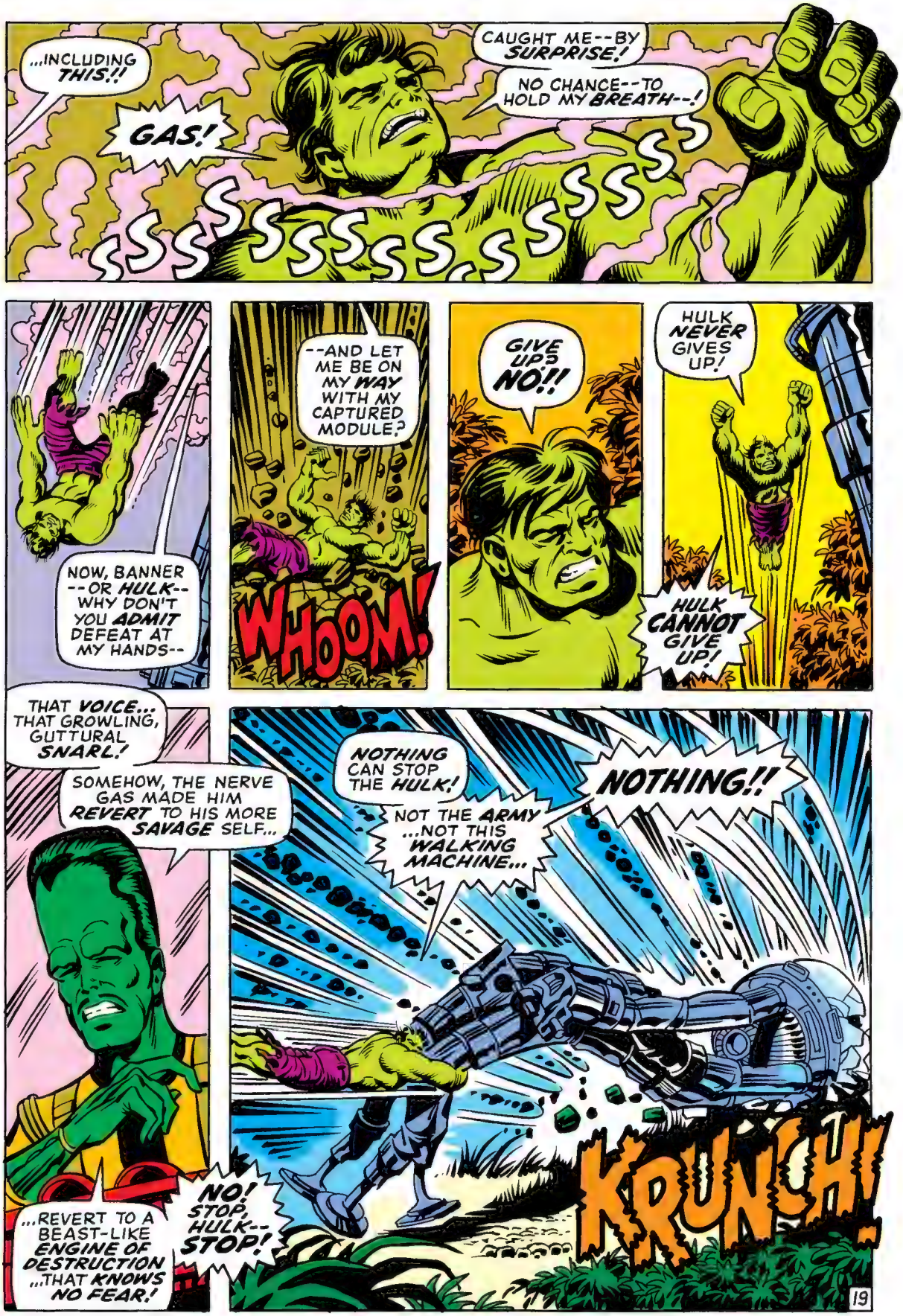

READY TO ROLL, GENERAL ROSS!
IF THE PROF IS COMIN' ALONG...
SUGGEST YOU TELL 'IM TO SHAKE A LEG... SIR!
COMING, SOLDIER!
WHO KNOWS, GENERAL... MAYBE THIS LITTLE TRIP WILL BE A MILK RUN!
I WON'T EVEN TURN INTO THE HULK...UNLESS I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO!
AND FOR YOUR SAKE, BANNER... AS WELL AS MY DAUGHTER'S...
I HOPE THAT THIS FEELING I HAVE IS JUST A FALSE ALARM!
AND THEN, THE LONG, LOW TRUCK LUMBERS OFF... HERALDED BY NO FANFARE, ESCORTED BY NO HEAVILY-ARMED TANKS...
...THE MILES TURNING TO DUST BENEATH ITS WIDE-RIMMED WHEELS...
THE PLAN IS FOR THE VERY ANONYMITY OF THE ROLLING, RUMBLING TRUCK TO BE ITS FOREMOST SAFEGUARD...
AND SO IT IS, SHIELDING IT FROM NOTICE BY EVERY PAIR OF EYES...
...SAVE ONE!!
WE ARE FAR ENOUGH FROM THE BASE NOW!
IT IS TIME FOR THE LEADER TO STRIKE!!
14

MEN HAVE EVER SHUNNED ME, AS ONE FAR DIFFERENT...FAR SUPERIOR TO THEMSELVES!
BUT, AFTER TODAY, THEY SHALL KNOW HOW TRULY SUPERIOR I REALLY AM!
AFTER TODAY, THE ACCURSED HUMAN RACE SHALL DARE SHUN ME...
...NO MORE!
THE HUGE MENTA-DISK ATTACHED TO MY AIRCRAFT WILL AMPLIFY MY ALREADY MATCHLESS MENTAL PROWESS...
...TRANSFORMING IT INTO MAGNETIC POWER SO IRRESISTIBLE...
SNAP!
...THAT IT WILL RIP THE METAL MODULE FROM ITS VERY MOORINGS!
SNAP!
SNAP!
...YOU CAN SAVE THE ANXIOUS LOOK AND FINGERNAIL-BITING, DOC!
WHO'S GONNA BOTHER US, WHEN NOBODY EVEN KNOWS WHAT ROUTE WE'RE TAKIN' TO POINT X?
MAYBE, BUT... HOLD IT, SOLDIER!
TY OF U.S. GOVT.
USAF
DID YOU HEAR THAT SOUND... FEEL THAT SUDDEN WRENCHING SENSATION?


GOOD LORD!
IT'S SOME KIND OF JET... SWOOPING LOW...
...PULLING THE MODULE RIGHT INTO THE SKY!!
I CAN WELL IMAGINE THE HELPLESS CONSTERNATION OF THOSE BELOW!
WELL, I SHALL PUT AN END TO ALL SUCH CONFUSION...
...BY ENDING THEIR LIVES AS WELL!
WITH A POWER BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION...BEYOND THE ABILITY OF MAN OR BEAST TO RESIST... A FIERCE MENTAL BEAM STABS OUT...!
DRIVER... THAT CURVE UP AHEAD...!
CAN'T... MAKE MY HAND... TURN THE WHEEL!
WE'RE DEAD MEN!
NOT IF WE... CAN MAKE OURSELVES JUMP, MAN...!
JUMP!!
MADE IT... OUT OF THE CAB... JUST IN TIME!
BUT WE'RE STILL FALLING TO OUR DEATHS...
...UNLESS I CAN DO THAT WHICH I MOST HATE TO DO, AND BECOME...
16

THE HULK!!
THWOOMF!
BANNER MANAGED TO BECOME THE HULK IN TIME TO SURVIVE THE FALL!
SO MUCH THE BETTER, FOR MY PURPOSES!
NOW, I CAN TEST THE WEAPON WHICH I HAVE CAPTURED...
...AS AN INSTRUMENT OF VENGEANCE!!
OUR MYSTERIOUS ATTACKER IS LANDING WITH HIS PRIZE!
WELL, WE'LL SEE HOW HE DEALS WITH THE MATCHLESS MIGHT OF THE HULK...
...COMBINED WITH THE MIND OF BRUCE BANNER!
FROM WHAT GENERAL ROSS TOLD ME, THAT MODULE IS FANTASTICALLY COMPLEX!
NO MAN COULD EVER MASTER ITS CONTROLS FAST ENOUGH TO--
YOU!!


YES, YOU BRAINLESS BARBARIAN-- IT IS THE LEADER!
THE NEWS MEDIA SAY NOT... BUT NO MATTER!
OR, ARE YOU THE MINDLESS BRUTE WHO HAS EVER FOILED MY BEST-LAID PLANS?
FTAK!
THOSE FORCE-BEAMS CAN DESTROY AN INTELLI-GENT HULK AS QUICKLY AS A STUPID ONE!
UNNHHH!
THE LEADER'S MUTATED BRAIN... ENABLED HIM TO MASTER THE TRIPOD... IN A MOMENT!
NOW, IT'S TRULY WHAT GENERAL ROSS SAID IT COULD BE--
A MURDER MODULE!
ZZZASKK
BUT, AS THE HULK, I STILL HAVE THE STRENGTH TO LEAP ABOARD ITS CONTROL DOME...
...AND CRUSH IT LIKE THE MEREST EGGSHELL!
A PITIFUL ATTEMPT, BANNER!
PERHAPS YOU ARE OUT OF RANGE OF MY FORCE-BEAM NOW...
BUT, I HAVE OTHER METHODS AT MY DISPOSAL...

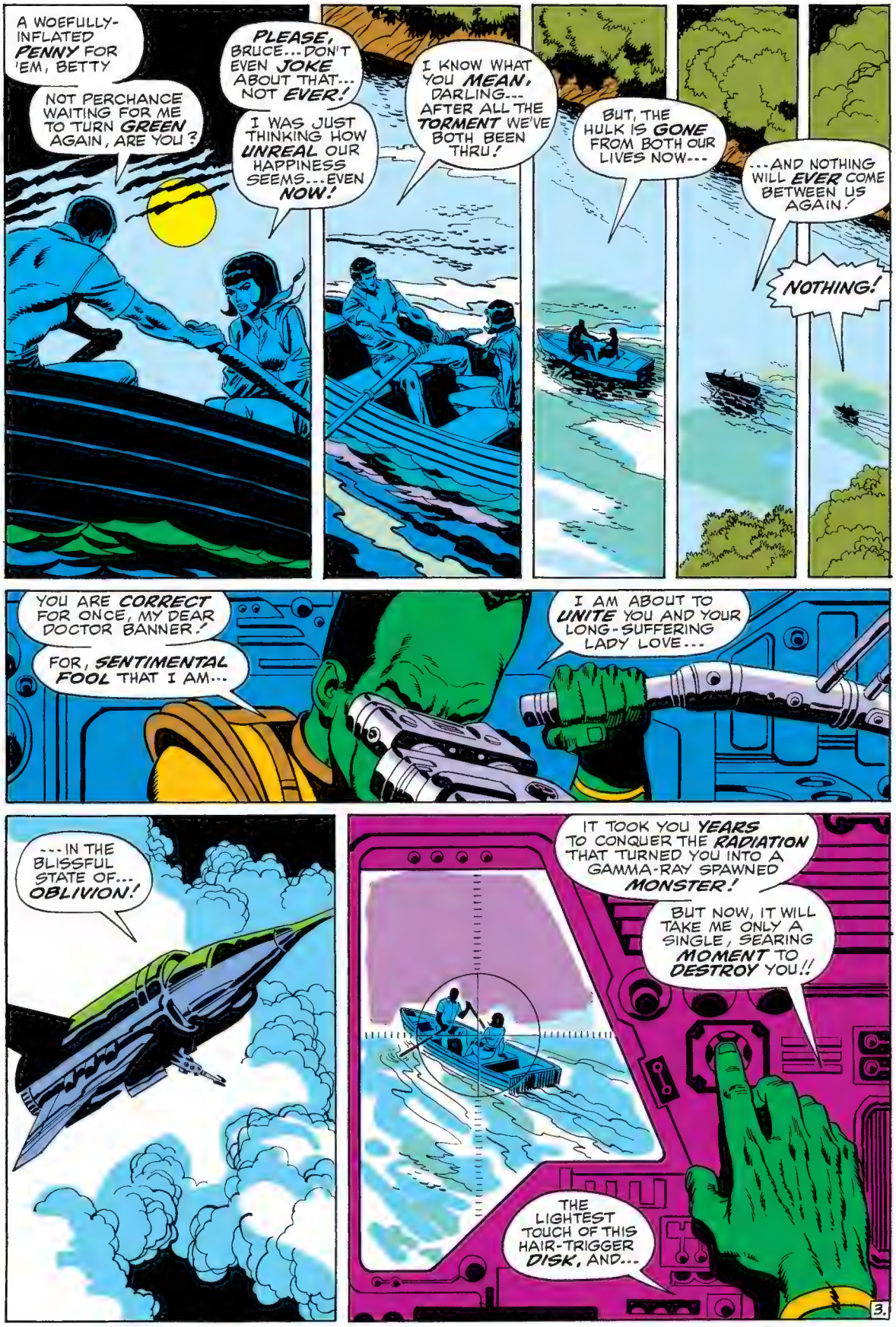

...INCLUDING THIS!!
GAS!
SSSSSSSSSSSS
CAUGHT ME--BY SURPRISE!
NO CHANCE--TO HOLD MY BREATH--!
NOW, BANNER --OR HULK-- WHY DON'T YOU ADMIT DEFEAT AT MY HANDS--
WHOOM!
--AND LET ME BE ON MY WAY WITH MY CAPTURED MODULE?
GIVE UP? NO!!
HULK NEVER GIVES UP!
HULK CANNOT GIVE UP!
THAT VOICE... THAT GROWLING, GUTTURAL SNARL!
SOMEHOW, THE NERVE GAS MADE HIM REVERT TO HIS MORE SAVAGE SELF...
...REVERT TO A BEAST-LIKE ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION ...THAT KNOWS NO FEAR!
NO! STOP, HULK-- STOP!
NOTHING CAN STOP THE HULK!
NOT THE ARMY ...NOT THIS WALKING MACHINE...
NOTHING!!
KRUNCH!

AND NOW...FOR THE ONE HULK HATES MOST OF ALL!
NO...NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME!
MY MENTAL BOLTS WILL DRIVE YOU BACK!
THEY MUST!!
HULK MUST DO NOTHING!
NOTHING BUT CRUSH THE LIFE FROM YOUR EVIL BODY!
AIEEEE!
NOW, HULK WILL--
WAIT!
I'M NOT THE HULK--I'M NOT!!
I'M BRUCE BANNER--AND I'M A MAN--A MAN--
NOT A MINDLESS, MARAUDING MONSTER!
HE DROPPED ME --AS HE BEGAN CHANGING BACK TO BANNER!
BUT, MY MENTAL POWERS ARE AT THEIR EBB!
MUST FLEE... TILL I CAN PLOT A MUTATE'S VENGEANCE!
A MOMENT AGO...I ALMOST BECAME...A MURDERER!
BUT THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
FOR, THIS I SWEAR...THAT I WILL NEVER BECOME THE HULK...
NOT EVEN... IF MY LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!
NEXT ISSUE:
IT DOES!

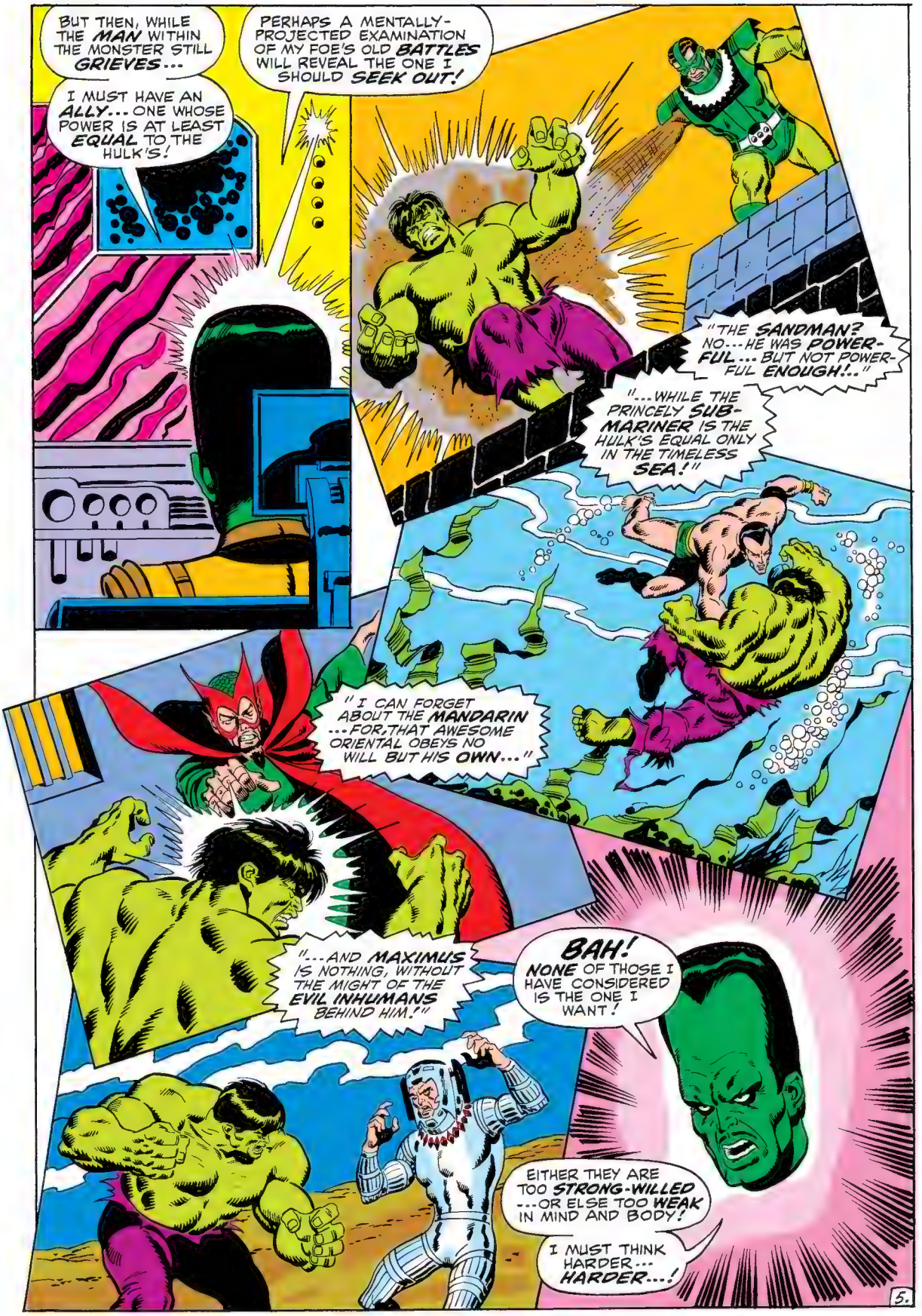
INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
124
FEB
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE WRATH OF THE RHINO!
TRIMPE

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
THE RHINO SAYS NO!
FINAL
DAILY BUG
New York, N.Y. 10017, Thursday, November 20, 1969
WEATHER: Mostly sunny, breezy.
A Tight Family P. 6
10 Cents
Vol. 51, No. 49
BRUCE BANNER TO MARRY
Daughter of Army General Announces Engagement To Man Who Was the Hulk!
SCIENTISTS AGREE
THEN... IT'S TRUE!
THE HULK IS... NO MORE!!
ANOTHER LEGEND-LADEN LANDMARK BY:
STAN LEE EDITOR
ROY THOMAS WRITER
HERB TRIMPE INNOVATOR
WITH THE ADDED TALENTS OF:
SAL BUSCEMA, ILLUSTRATOR
and SAM ROSEN, LETTERER

AFTER LONG, TORTURED YEARS, THE MAN BRUCE BANNER IS AT LAST SUPREME---
...OVER THE MINDLESS MONSTER THAT MEN CALL THE HULK!
A PITY THAT IT IS TOO LATE ---FOR EITHER OF THEM!
FOR, TOO OFTEN HAS FIRST ONE, THEN THE OTHER, THWARTED THE BEST-LAID PLANS OF THE LEADER!
CALL HIM BANNER... OR CALL HIM BRUTE---
HE SHALL SOON BE... DEAD!!
BUT, IN A DRESSMAKER'S SHOP IN SUN-DRENCHED CALIFORNIA, THE THOUGHTS ARE NOT OF DEATH... BUT OF HAPPINESS!
HOLD STILL BETTY ROSS!
YOU'D THINK YOU WERE THE FIRST GIRL EVER HAD TO BE FITTED FOR A WEDDING GOWN!
AND, WHEN THE MOON'S SOFT GLOW IS UPON THE LAND---
---NEITHER LUNAR LANDINGS NOR A LURKING LEADER ENTER THE THOUGHTS OF A MAN AND WOMAN IN LOVE---!
2.

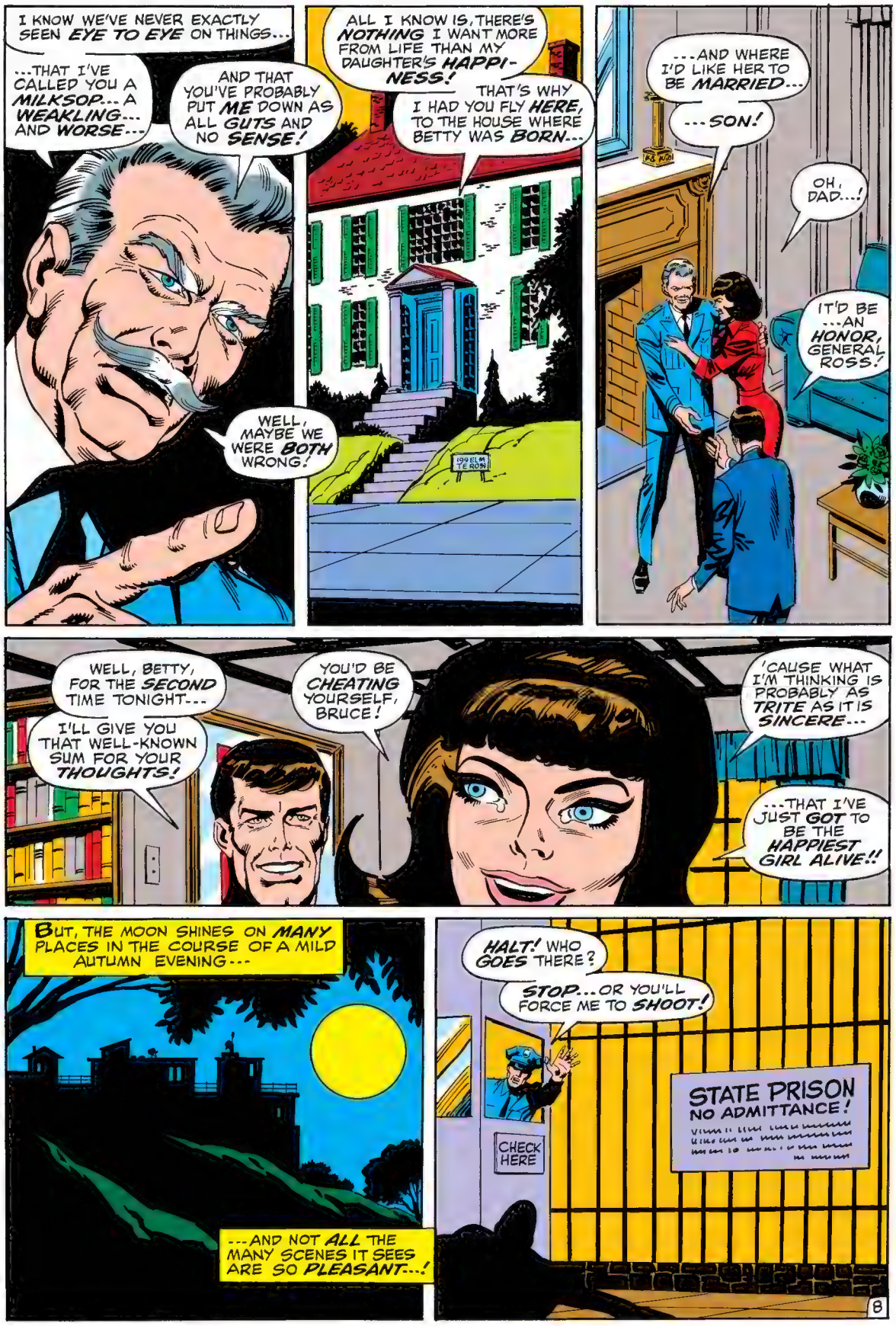

A WOEFULLY-INFLATED PENNY FOR 'EM, BETTY
NOT PERCHANCE WAITING FOR ME TO TURN GREEN AGAIN, ARE YOU?
PLEASE, BRUCE...DON'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT THAT... NOT EVER!
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW UNREAL OUR HAPPINESS SEEMS...EVEN NOW!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, DARLING--- AFTER ALL THE TORMENT WE'VE BOTH BEEN THRU!
BUT, THE HULK IS GONE FROM BOTH OUR LIVES NOW---
...AND NOTHING WILL EVER COME BETWEEN US AGAIN!
NOTHING!
YOU ARE CORRECT FOR ONCE, MY DEAR DOCTOR BANNER!
FOR, SENTIMENTAL FOOL THAT I AM...
I AM ABOUT TO UNITE YOU AND YOUR LONG-SUFFERING LADY LOVE...
---IN THE BLISSFUL STATE OF... OBLIVION!
IT TOOK YOU YEARS TO CONQUER THE RADIATION THAT TURNED YOU INTO A GAMMA-RAY SPAWNED MONSTER!
BUT NOW, IT WILL TAKE ME ONLY A SINGLE, SEARING MOMENT TO DESTROY YOU!!
THE LIGHTEST TOUCH OF THIS HAIR-TRIGGER DISK, AND...
3.

NO!!
THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY... TOO PAIN-LESS!
FOR FOILING MY ATTEMPT TO START A WORLD WAR, THE HULK---OR BRUCE BANNER---MUST SUFFER!
I MUST HAVE TIME TO THINK.. TIME TO PLAN!
THEN, AND ONLY THEN, SHALL I DRINK FROM THE CUP OF REVENGE!
LOOK, BRUCE! A SHOOTING STAR!
IT'S AN OMEN... YES, AN OMEN OF GOOD LUCK!
WE DON'T NEED LUCK, BETTY---NOT ANY MORE!
ALL WE NEED IS TO BE LEFT ALONE, TO BUILD A LIFE TOGETHER---
IF THAT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK!
BUT, IT IS FAR TOO MUCH TO ASK, BRUCE BANNER, OF THE RADIATION-BORN BEING WHO EVEN NOW STREAKS TOWARDS A SECRET, SUBTERRANEAN LAIR---
...THERE TO BROOD AND PLOT AMIDST THE SINISTER TRAPPINGS OF A LIFE LIVED ONLY FOR POWER---!
EVEN KILLING THE GIRL FIRST IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PLEASE ME!
NOT UNLESS SHE DIES AT THE HAND OF... THE HULK!
YES... THAT'S IT!
THE MONSTER MUST RETURN ONCE MORE---IN TIME TO KILL BRUCE BANNER'S BRIDE!
AND, IT MUST BE... ON THE VERY DAY OF THE WEDDING!

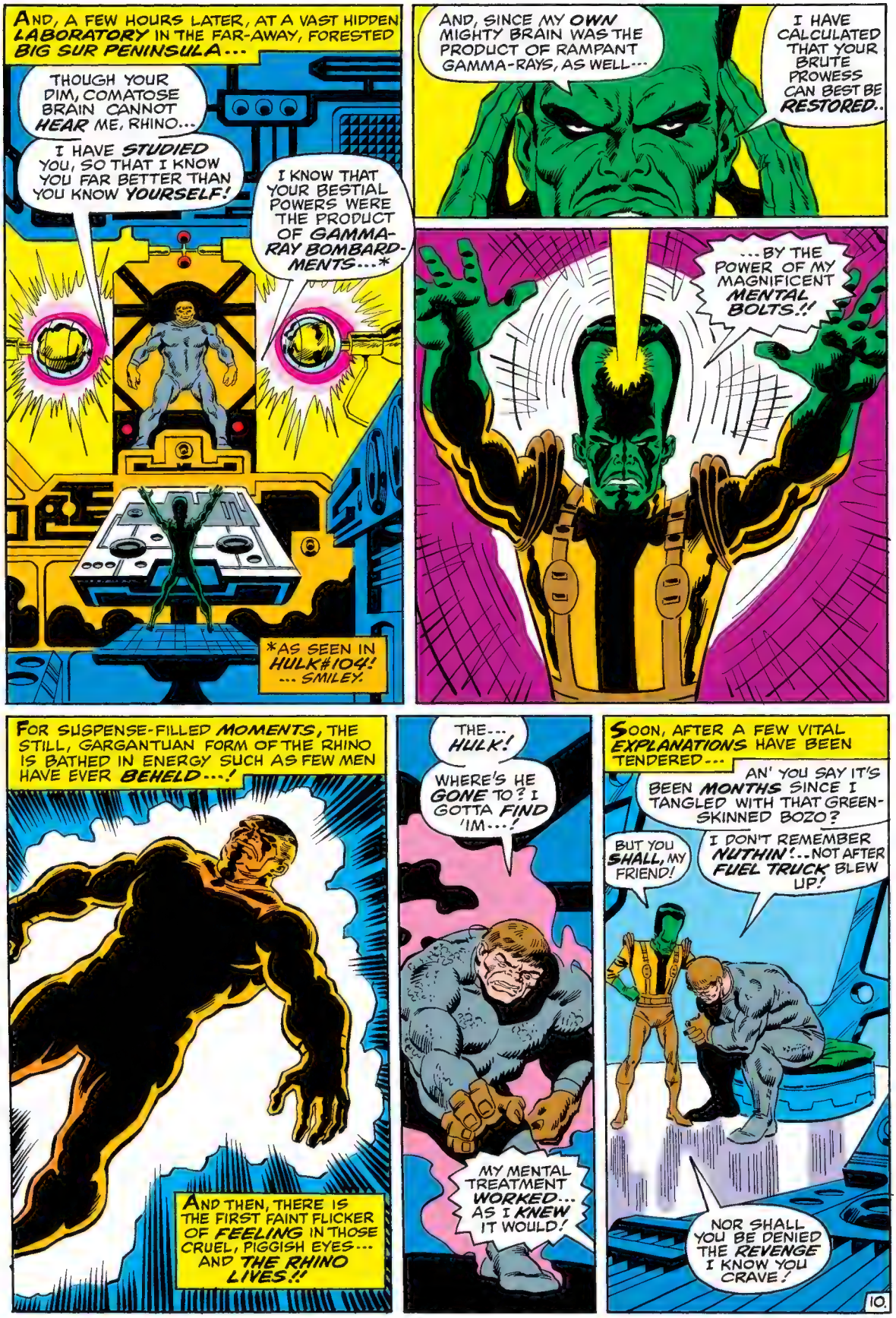

BUT THEN, WHILE THE MAN WITHIN THE MONSTER STILL GRIEVES...
I MUST HAVE AN ALLY... ONE WHOSE POWER IS AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE HULK'S!
PERHAPS A MENTALLY-PROJECTED EXAMINATION OF MY FOE'S OLD BATTLES WILL REVEAL THE ONE I SHOULD SEEK OUT!
"THE SANDMAN? NO... HE WAS POWERFUL... BUT NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH!.."
"...WHILE THE PRINCELY SUB-MARINER IS THE HULK'S EQUAL ONLY IN THE TIMELESS SEA!"
"I CAN FORGET ABOUT THE MANDARIN ...FOR, THAT AWESOME ORIENTAL OBEYS NO WILL BUT HIS OWN..."
"...AND MAXIMUS IS NOTHING, WITHOUT THE MIGHT OF THE EVIL INHUMANS BEHIND HIM!"
BAH! NONE OF THOSE I HAVE CONSIDERED IS THE ONE I WANT!
EITHER THEY ARE TOO STRONG-WILLED ...OR ELSE TOO WEAK IN MIND AND BODY!
I MUST THINK HARDER... HARDER...!

"THE SPACE PARASITE MIGHT HAVE GAINED ENERGY ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE HATED GREEN GARGOYLE..."
"BUT HE IS DEAD... HIS LIFELESS FORM DRIFTING EVEN NOW ON THE RIM OF SPACE..."
...WHILE THE ALMOST BRAINLESS BRUTE CALLED THE RHINO...
WAIT! HE HAD BATTLED THE HULK TO AT LEAST A STANDSTILL...
...WHEN A BLINDING, BLAZING EXPLOSION ENDED THE FIGHT ...AND ALMOST HIS LIFE!*
COULD HE BE THE ALLY I SEEK?
YES!
HE IS THE PERFECT TOOL... STRONG, BUT STUPID...
POSSESSED OF THE POWER OF A RAGING DYNAMO... BUT WITH A WILL TOO WEAK TO RESIST MINE!
*AS WONDROUSLY WITNESSED IN HULK #103! ...STAN.
AHHH...HERE IS WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR...BURIED WITHIN MY ALL-INCLUSIVE FILES!
THIS SINGLE CLIPPING TELLS ME ALL THAT I NEED TO KNOW!
HE WAS BADLY BURNED...ALMOST DEAD, WHEN LAST HEARD FROM!
BUT, I SEEM TO REMEMBER...!
THE RHINO LIVES!
AND BECAUSE HE LIVES...THE HULK SHALL DIE!!
RHINO CAPTURED NEAR DEATH, AFTER BATTLE WITH HULK!
KEPT UNDER SEDATION AND HEAVY GUARD AT STATE HOSPITAL!

"HOW IRONIC... ESPECIALLY SINCE THE HULK THINKS THAT THE RHINO PERISHED IN THAT FIRE!"
IT'S NO USE!
THE RHINO IS ...DEAD!
BUT I KNOW I WOULD HAVE BEATEN HIM!
AND THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL KNOW IT, TOO!
"HOWEVER, IN HIS MINDLESS, BESTIAL STATE, THE HULK IS HARDLY A QUALIFIED PHYSICIAN ...AND WHEN HE HAD DEPARTED"..
CALL AN AMBULANCE ...QUICK!
THIS MAN'S STILL BREATHING!
"EVEN NOW, THE RHINO REMAINS IN A STATE OF SHOCK... WHICH EVEN THE WISEST OF DOCTORS ARE HELPLESS TO CURE...!"
BUT, THEY ARE NOT...
...THE LEADER!
SO DREAM ON, BRUCE BANNER...AND ENJOY THOSE FEW PRECIOUS MOMENTS OF LIFE WHICH REMAIN TO YOU!
FOR, SOON THE RHINO SHALL ONCE MORE WALK ...AND ATTACK...AND DESTROY!
AND HIS FIRST VICTIM SHALL BE... YOU!
...BANNER, COULD YOU SPARE ME A MINUTE?
I THINK IT'S TIME THAT YOU AND I HAD A LITTLE TALK!
FATHER...IF YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO STOP BRUCE AND ME FROM GETTING MARRIED...!
PLEASE, BETTY...LET YOUR DAD HAVE HIS SAY!
IT'S HIS RIGHT!
THANKS, BANNER!


I KNOW WE'VE NEVER EXACTLY SEEN EYE TO EYE ON THINGS...
...THAT I'VE CALLED YOU A MILKSOP... A WEAKLING... AND WORSE...
AND THAT YOU'VE PROBABLY PUT ME DOWN AS ALL GUTS AND NO SENSE!
WELL, MAYBE WE WERE BOTH WRONG!
ALL I KNOW IS, THERE'S NOTHING I WANT MORE FROM LIFE THAN MY DAUGHTER'S HAPPINESS!
THAT'S WHY I HAD YOU FLY HERE, TO THE HOUSE WHERE BETTY WAS BORN...
199 ELM TREE ROAD
...AND WHERE I'D LIKE HER TO BE MARRIED...
...SON!
OH, DAD...!
IT'D BE ...AN HONOR, GENERAL ROSS!
WELL, BETTY, FOR THE SECOND TIME TONIGHT...
I'LL GIVE YOU THAT WELL-KNOWN SUM FOR YOUR THOUGHTS!
YOU'D BE CHEATING YOURSELF, BRUCE!
'CAUSE WHAT I'M THINKING IS PROBABLY AS TRITE AS IT IS SINCERE...
...THAT I'VE JUST GOT TO BE THE HAPPIEST GIRL ALIVE!!
BUT, THE MOON SHINES ON MANY PLACES IN THE COURSE OF A MILD AUTUMN EVENING...
...AND NOT ALL THE MANY SCENES IT SEES ARE SO PLEASANT...!
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?
STOP... OR YOU'LL FORCE ME TO SHOOT!
CHECK HERE
STATE PRISON
NO ADMITTANCE!

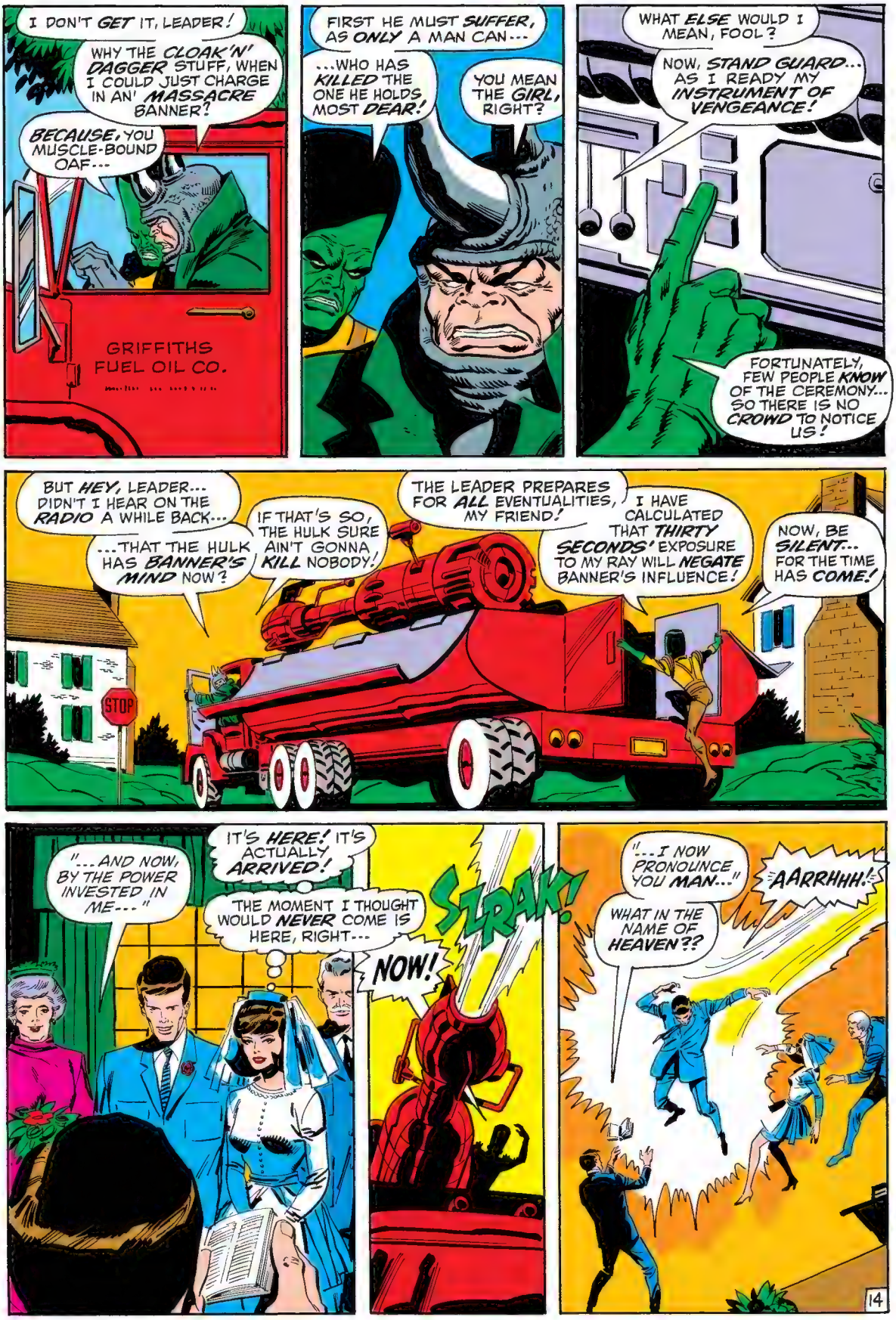
THAT'S THE BOY... STEP OUT IN THE MOONLIGHT WHERE I CAN GET A GOOD LOOK AT...
GOOD LORD!
OUT OF... MY WAY... HUMAN!
MY BUSINESS... IS NOT... WITH YOU!
SWAK!
I ONLY WANT... THIS ONE!
THAT... MONSTER TOOK THE RHINO!
STOP HIM!
HOW'RE WE GONNA DO THAT? THROW FLOWERS AT 'IM?
THE RHINO'S STILL OUT! HE KNEW NOTHING OF THIS!
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO PUT OUT AN ALL-COUNTS ON HIM...
...OR PITY HIM!!
9.


AND, A FEW HOURS LATER, AT A VAST HIDDEN LABORATORY IN THE FAR-AWAY, FORESTED BIG SUR PENINSULA...
THOUGH YOUR DIM, COMATOSE BRAIN CANNOT HEAR ME, RHINO...
I HAVE STUDIED YOU, SO THAT I KNOW YOU FAR BETTER THAN YOU KNOW YOURSELF!
I KNOW THAT YOUR BESTIAL POWERS WERE THE PRODUCT OF GAMMA-RAY BOMBARDMENTS...*
*AS SEEN IN HULK#104! --- SMILEY.
AND, SINCE MY OWN MIGHTY BRAIN WAS THE PRODUCT OF RAMPANT GAMMA-RAYS, AS WELL...
I HAVE CALCULATED THAT YOUR BRUTE PROWESS CAN BEST BE RESTORED..
...BY THE POWER OF MY MAGNIFICENT MENTAL BOLTS!!
FOR SUSPENSE-FILLED MOMENTS, THE STILL, GARGANTUAN FORM OF THE RHINO IS BATHED IN ENERGY SUCH AS FEW MEN HAVE EVER BEHELD...!
AND THEN, THERE IS THE FIRST FAINT FLICKER OF FEELING IN THOSE CRUEL, PIGGISH EYES... AND THE RHINO LIVES!!
THE... HULK!
WHERE'S HE GONE TO? I GOTTA FIND 'IM...!
MY MENTAL TREATMENT WORKED... AS I KNEW IT WOULD!
SOON, AFTER A FEW VITAL EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN TENDERED...
AN' YOU SAY IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE I TANGLED WITH THAT GREEN-SKINNED BOZO?
BUT YOU SHALL, MY FRIEND!
I DON'T REMEMBER NUTHIN'...NOT AFTER FUEL TRUCK BLEW UP!
NOR SHALL YOU BE DENIED THE REVENGE I KNOW YOU CRAVE!

FOR, THOUGH MY MENTAL BOLTS ALONE MIGHT NOT TRANSFORM BANNER INTO THE SAVAGE HULK AGAIN---
I AM POSITIVE THEY WILL DO SO WHEN THEY ARE PROJECTED THRU THIS NUCLEAR-POWERED AMPLIFIER!
THEN, AND ONLY THEN, WILL MY VENGEANCE BE COMPLETE!
I'M WITH YOU---I GUESS!
BUT I STILL WISH I HAD MY RHINO SUIT!
I ANTICIPATED YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE UPON IT!
HERE IT IS---RESTORED BY MY OWN MUTANT GENIUS!
LEMME AT IT, LEADER-MAN!
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
I WASN'T QUITE SURE BEFORE, JUST HOW STRONG ALL YOUR BRAIN-BLASTIN' MADE ME!
BUT NOW, I KNOW I'M STRONGER ---FASTER THAN EVER!
LEAD ME TO THE HULK--- NOW!
THE RHINO'LL MAKE MINCEMEAT OUT OF 'IM!!
NO, RHINO! NOT JUST YET!
11.

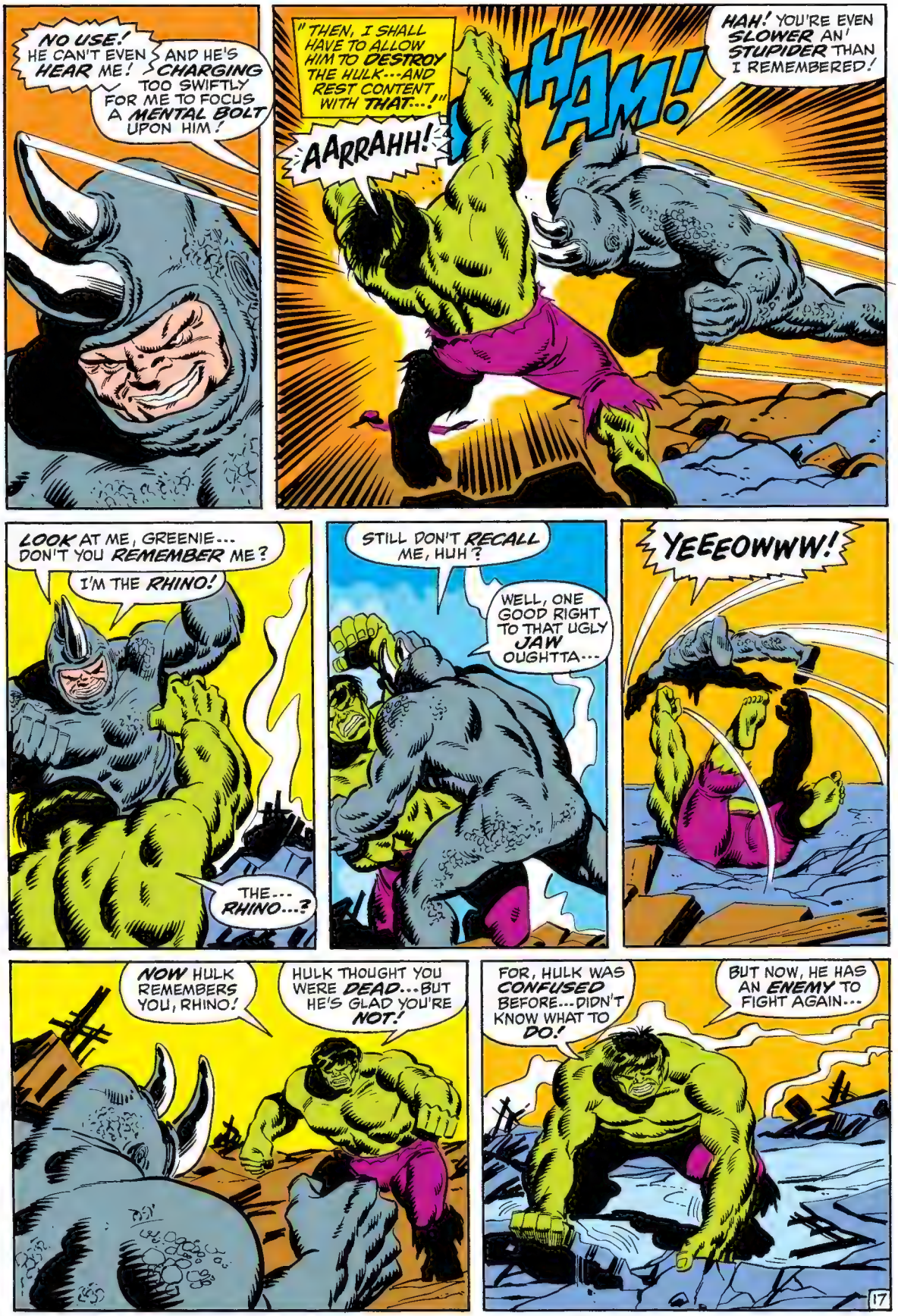
YOU MAY BE CERTAIN OF YOUR REBORN POWERS... BUT THE LEADER PREFERS A SURER TEST!
BEHOLD THE GIANT ANDROID WHICH RESCUED YOU!
I ONCE CONSIDERED USING HIM TO BATTLE THE MINDLESS HULK...!
AN' YOU WANT OL' RHINO TO TAKE 'IM OUT, HUH?
OKAY, IF THAT'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY, LEADER-MAN!
HE MAY BE BIGGER AND MEANER-LOOKIN' THAN ANYTHIN' I EVER TACKLED BEFORE...
STILL, IT AIN'T WHETHER YOU CAN DISH IT OUT THAT COUNTS...
...BUT WHETHER YOU CAN TAKE IT!!
KUH-
WHAM!
WELL, LITTLE GREENIE TWO-SHOES?
NOW DO YA THINK I'M READY TO TAKE ON THE HULK?
I'LL FORGIVE YOUR INSOLENCE THIS ONCE, RHINO...
...BECAUSE YOU SUCCEEDED BEYOND EVEN MY EXPECTATIONS!
THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
THE HULK ...AND BRUCE BANNER...ARE DOOMED!!
12

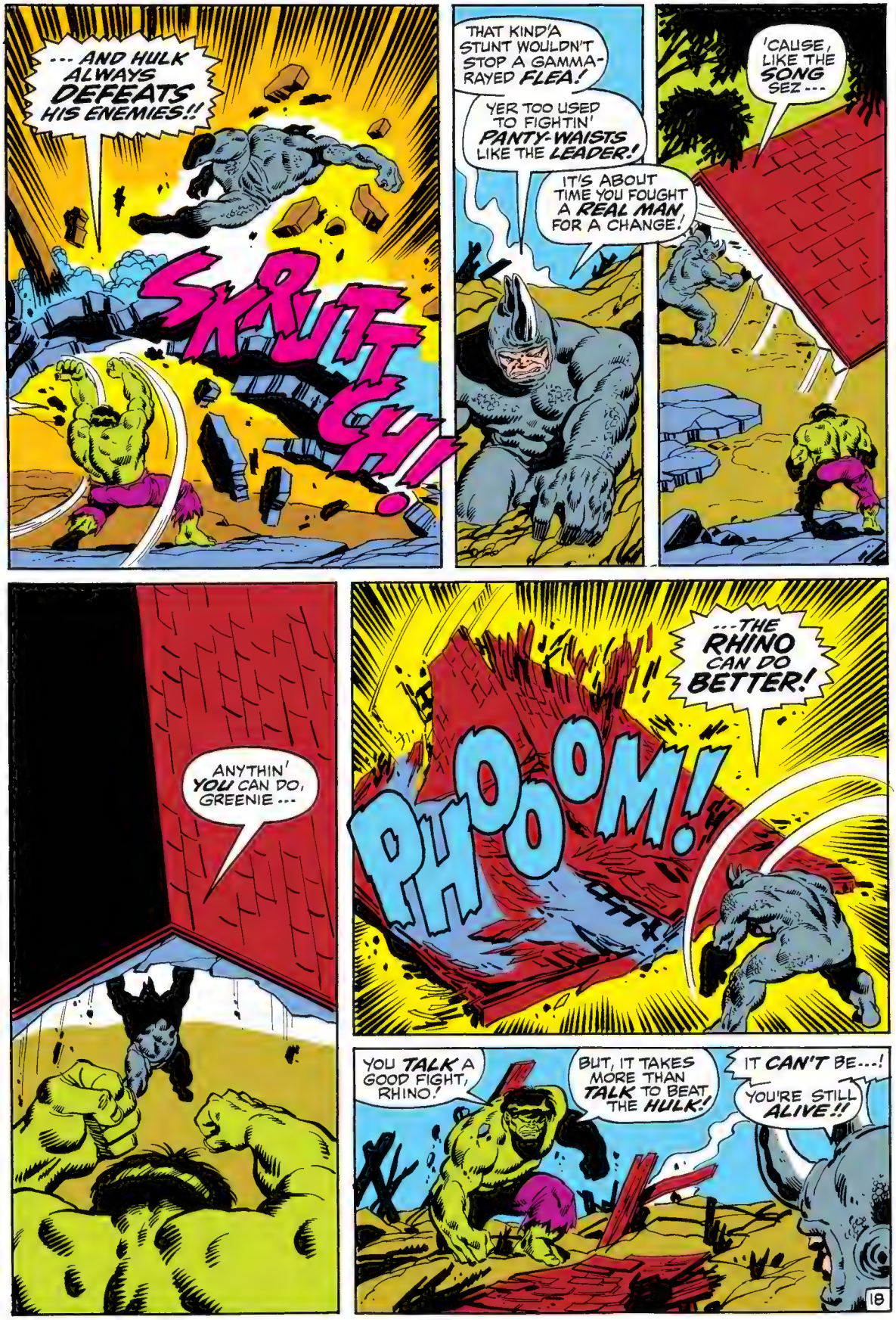
THE DAY DAWNS BRIGHTLY ON THE HOUSE WHERE BETTY ROSS WAS BORN... THE HOUSE WHERE SHE IS TO BE MARRIED THIS DAY!
AND, AS THE HANDFUL OF INVITED GUESTS ARRIVE---
THE CEREMONY, MAY BEGIN!
"DEARLY BELOVED, WE ARE GATHERED HERE---"
STILL NO COLD FEET, BRUCE, DEAR?
ONLY A FEW LINGERING REGRETS, MY DARLING---
---THAT THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN YEARS AGO!
"...TO BRING TOGETHER THIS MAN AND THIS WOMAN---"
"...IN THE BONDS OF HOLY MATRIMONY..!"
MAYBE BANNER ISN'T THE HUSBAND I'D HAVE CHOSEN FOR BETTY...
AND, MAYBE THINGS WILL WORK OUT--
BUT, AT LEAST I KNOW HE'LL DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO MAKE HER HAPPY!
---NOW THAT THE SHADOW OF THE HULK NO LONGER FALLS BETWEEN THEM---!
GRIFFITHS FUEL OIL CO.
199 ELM T.E. ROSS
13


I DON'T GET IT, LEADER!
WHY THE CLOAK 'N' DAGGER STUFF, WHEN I COULD JUST CHARGE IN AN' MASSACRE BANNER?
BECAUSE, YOU MUSCLE-BOUND OAF...
GRIFFITHS FUEL OIL CO.
FIRST HE MUST SUFFER, AS ONLY A MAN CAN...
...WHO HAS KILLED THE ONE HE HOLDS MOST DEAR!
YOU MEAN THE GIRL, RIGHT?
WHAT ELSE WOULD I MEAN, FOOL?
NOW, STAND GUARD... AS I READY MY INSTRUMENT OF VENGEANCE!
FORTUNATELY, FEW PEOPLE KNOW OF THE CEREMONY... SO THERE IS NO CROWD TO NOTICE US!
BUT HEY, LEADER... DIDN'T I HEAR ON THE RADIO A WHILE BACK...
...THAT THE HULK HAS BANNER'S MIND NOW?
IF THAT'S SO, THE HULK SURE AIN'T GONNA KILL NOBODY!
THE LEADER PREPARES FOR ALL EVENTUALITIES, MY FRIEND!
I HAVE CALCULATED THAT THIRTY SECONDS' EXPOSURE TO MY RAY WILL NEGATE BANNER'S INFLUENCE!
NOW, BE SILENT... FOR THE TIME HAS COME!
STOP
"...AND NOW, BY THE POWER INVESTED IN ME..."
IT'S HERE! IT'S ACTUALLY ARRIVED!
THE MOMENT I THOUGHT WOULD NEVER COME IS HERE, RIGHT...
NOW!
SZRAK!
"...I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN..."
AARRHHH!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN??
14

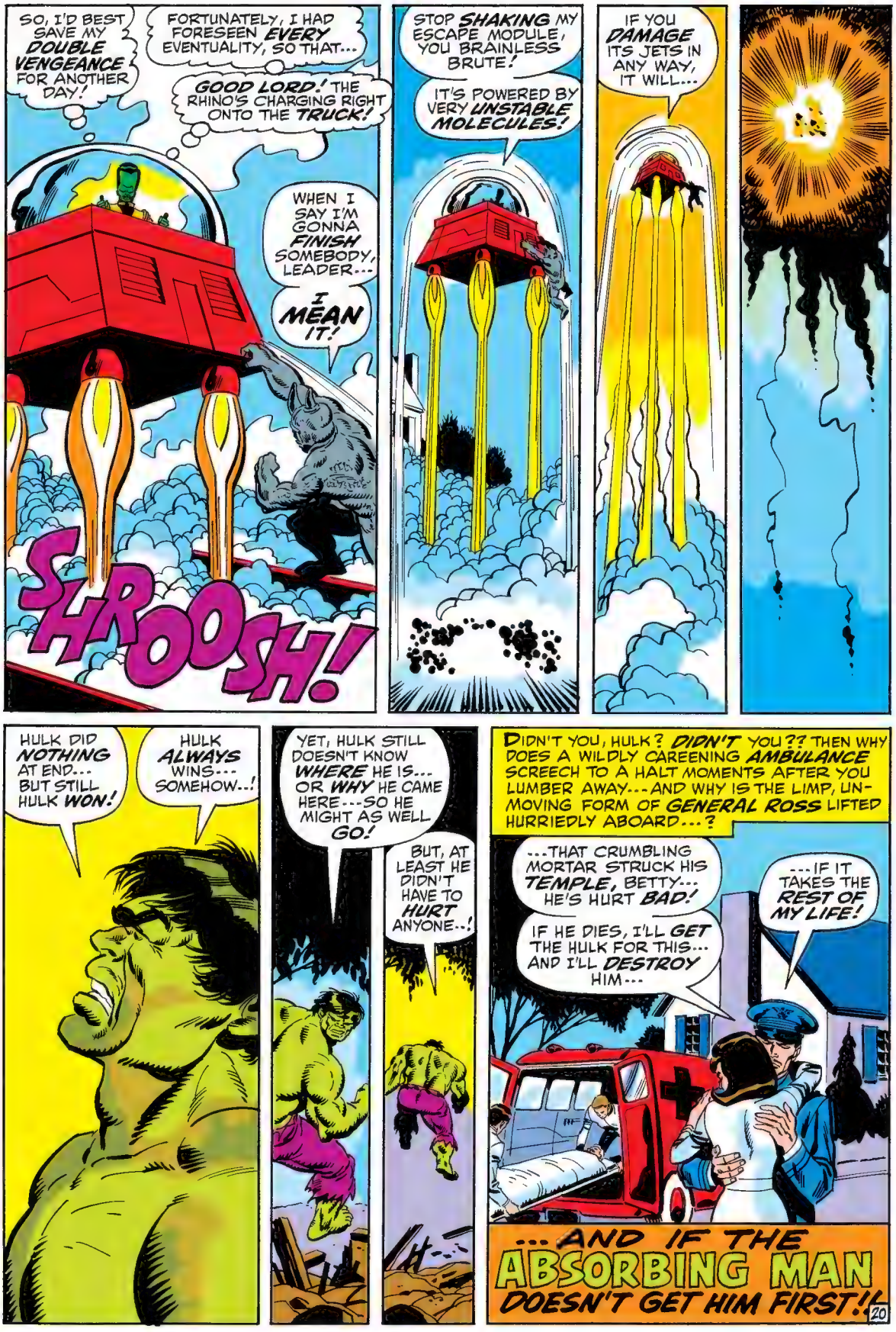
BUT, ONE THERE IS WHO SENSES AT ONCE WHAT IS OCCURRING--- WITH A TERRIFIED GASP---!
NO!!
IT CAN'T HAPPEN---NOT HERE!
NOT NOW!
I'M--- CHANGING, SOMEHOW---TURNING INTO THE HULK AGAIN!
IT'S NO ACCIDENT! SOMEONE HAS DELIBERATELY CAUSED THE CHANGE!
BUT, WHATEVER THEIR PURPOSE---IT WILL DO THEM NO GOOD!
FOR, AS LONG AS I RETAIN THE MIND--- THE INTELLECT OF BRUCE BANNER---
I CAN FIND OUT WHO DID THIS THING---AND THEN-- HULK WILL SMASH!
NO--- WAIT! THAT WASN'T ME--- IT WASN'T BRUCE BANNER TALKING---!
AND WHY SHOULD IT BE BRUCE BANNER ---WHEN I'M THE HULK!?
BUT--- WHY IS HULK INSIDE A HOUSE--- SURROUNDED BY HIS ENEMIES?
NO MATTER! HE WON'T BE HERE LONG!
NO, BRUCE--- DON'T!
RUN, GIRL! NOTHING CAN STOP HIM NOW!
KOOM!
SSSHRR
15.

NO ONE KEEPS THE HULK PENNED UP INSIDE FOUR WALLS!
NO ONE!!
THOOOM!
AND, EVEN AS HE SPEAKS, THE FOUR STRONG WALLS SURROUND OUR GREEN-SKINNED GOLEM NO LONGER...!
HULK IS FREE AGAIN!
FREE!
THAT'S WHAT THAT PLUG-UGLY THINKS!
I WUZ BROUGHT HERE TO KILL HIM...AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M GONNA DO!
ALL BETS ARE OFF, LEADER!
THE RHINO IS TAKIN' OVER!!
STOP, YOU BRAINLESS, BLUNDERING BRUTE!
I NEED ANOTHER CLEAR SHOT... A FEW MORE PRECIOUS SECONDS...
...TO TURN THE HULK SAVAGE ENOUGH TO SLAUGHTER ALL THOSE AROUND HIM!
16.


NO USE! HE CAN'T EVEN HEAR ME! AND HE'S CHARGING TOO SWIFTLY FOR ME TO FOCUS A MENTAL BOLT UPON HIM!
"THEN, I SHALL HAVE TO ALLOW HIM TO DESTROY THE HULK---AND REST CONTENT WITH THAT---!"
AARRAHH!
HAM!
HAH! YOU'RE EVEN SLOWER AN' STUPIDER THAN I REMEMBERED!
LOOK AT ME, GREENIE--- DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?
I'M THE RHINO!
THE--- RHINO---?
STILL DON'T RECALL ME, HUH?
WELL, ONE GOOD RIGHT TO THAT UGLY JAW OUGHTTA---
YEEEOWWW!
NOW HULK REMEMBERS YOU, RHINO!
HULK THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD---BUT HE'S GLAD YOU'RE NOT!
FOR, HULK WAS CONFUSED BEFORE---DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
BUT NOW, HE HAS AN ENEMY TO FIGHT AGAIN---


--- AND HULK ALWAYS DEFEATS HIS ENEMIES!!
SKRUTCH!
THAT KIND'A STUNT WOULDN'T STOP A GAMMA-RAYED FLEA!
YER TOO USED TO FIGHTIN' PANTY-WAISTS LIKE THE LEADER!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU FOUGHT A REAL MAN FOR A CHANGE!
'CAUSE, LIKE THE SONG SEZ ---
ANYTHIN' YOU CAN DO, GREENIE ---
PHOOOM!
---THE RHINO CAN DO BETTER!
YOU TALK A GOOD FIGHT, RHINO!
BUT, IT TAKES MORE THAN TALK TO BEAT THE HULK!
IT CAN'T BE---!
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!!

ALL RIGHT... YOU'VE HAD YOUR CHANCE, YOU GREAT HORNED CLOD!
NOW STAND ASIDE... AND LET THE LEADER MAKE THE FINAL MOVE!
NOT A CHANCE, BIG-DOME!
I OWE THAT GREEN-SKINNED GORILLA SOMETHIN' FROM THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT...
--- AND THE RHINO ALWAYS PAYS HIS DEBTS!
LOOK OUT, YOU FOOL!
I'VE ALREADY SET THE GAMMA-GUN ON DESTRUCT--!
=YRRROWW!=
HE SHOT ME! THE ...LOUSY BUM... SHOT ME...!
SZROK!
THAT'S THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE RHINO'S BACK, LEADER!
THE HULK CAN WAIT, TILL I FINISH WITH YOU---
---AN I DO MEAN FINISH!!
NO... NO! STAY BACK!
YOU CAN'T TURN ON ME!
I SAVED YOUR LIFE!!
YOU SHOULD'A THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE YOU BLASTED ME, CRUMB!
US GREAT HORNED CLODS, WE AIN'T TOO LONG ON GRATITUDE!
I MIGHT HAVE TIME FOR ONE MORE BURST...
BUT, IF IT WEREN'T FATAL... I'D BE DEAD!
19


SO, I'D BEST SAVE MY DOUBLE VENGEANCE FOR ANOTHER DAY!
FORTUNATELY, I HAD FORESEEN EVERY EVENTUALITY, SO THAT...
GOOD LORD! THE RHINO'S CHARGING RIGHT ONTO THE TRUCK!
WHEN I SAY I'M GONNA FINISH SOMEBODY, LEADER...
I MEAN IT!
SHROOSH!
STOP SHAKING MY ESCAPE MODULE, YOU BRAINLESS BRUTE!
IT'S POWERED BY VERY UNSTABLE MOLECULES!
IF YOU DAMAGE ITS JETS IN ANY WAY, IT WILL...
HULK DID NOTHING AT END... BUT STILL HULK WON!
HULK ALWAYS WINS... SOMEHOW..!
YET, HULK STILL DOESN'T KNOW WHERE HE IS... OR WHY HE CAME HERE...SO HE MIGHT AS WELL GO!
BUT, AT LEAST HE DIDN'T HAVE TO HURT ANYONE..!
DIDN'T YOU, HULK? DIDN'T YOU?? THEN WHY DOES A WILDLY CAREENING AMBULANCE SCREECH TO A HALT MOMENTS AFTER YOU LUMBER AWAY...AND WHY IS THE LIMP, UNMOVING FORM OF GENERAL ROSS LIFTED HURRIEDLY ABOARD...?
...THAT CRUMBLING MORTAR STRUCK HIS TEMPLE, BETTY... HE'S HURT BAD!
...IF IT TAKES THE REST OF MY LIFE!
IF HE DIES, I'LL GET THE HULK FOR THIS... AND I'LL DESTROY HIM...
...AND IF THE ABSORBING MAN DOESN'T GET HIM FIRST!!

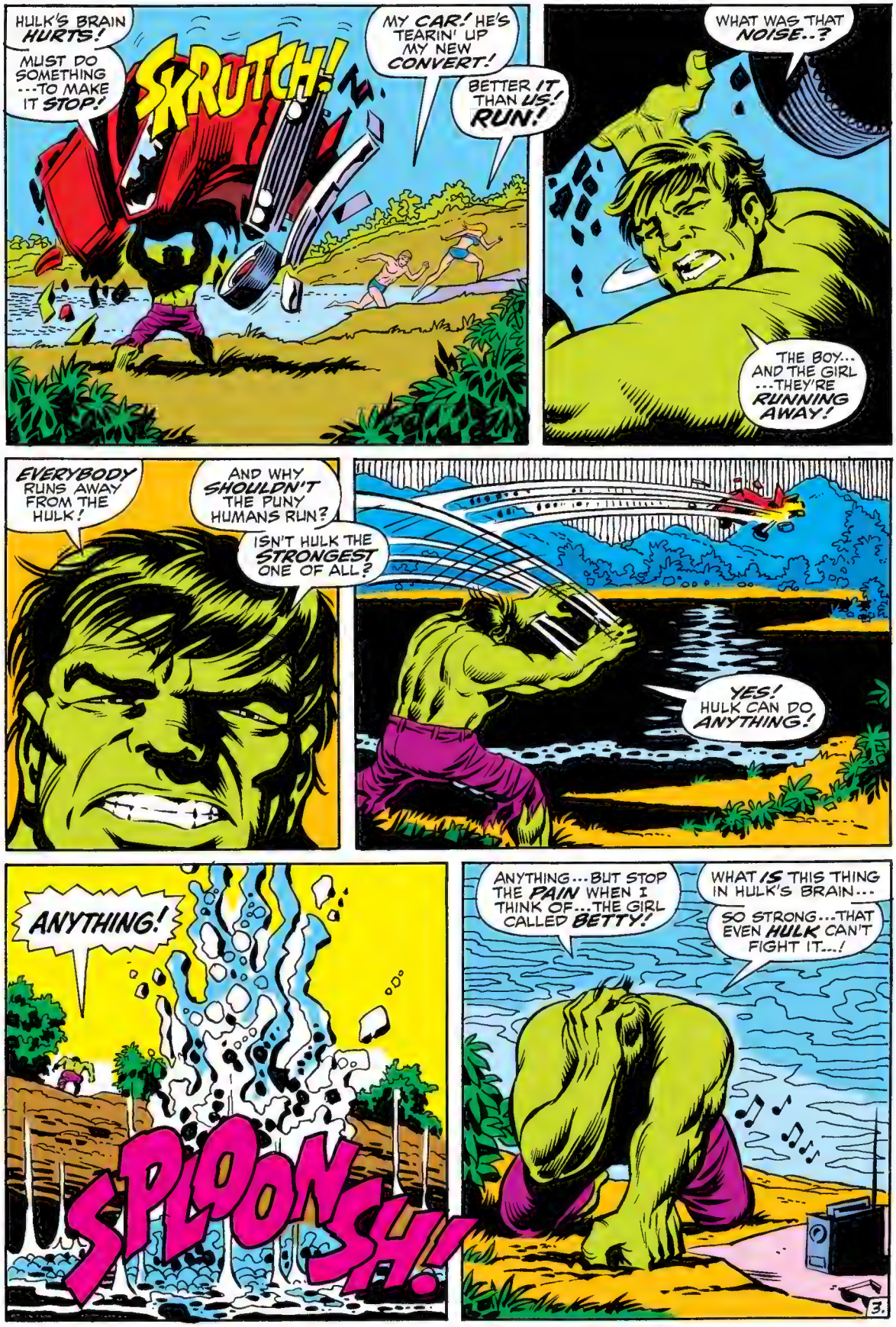
INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
CC
125
MAR
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
TRIMPE
AND NOW THE ABSORBING MAN!

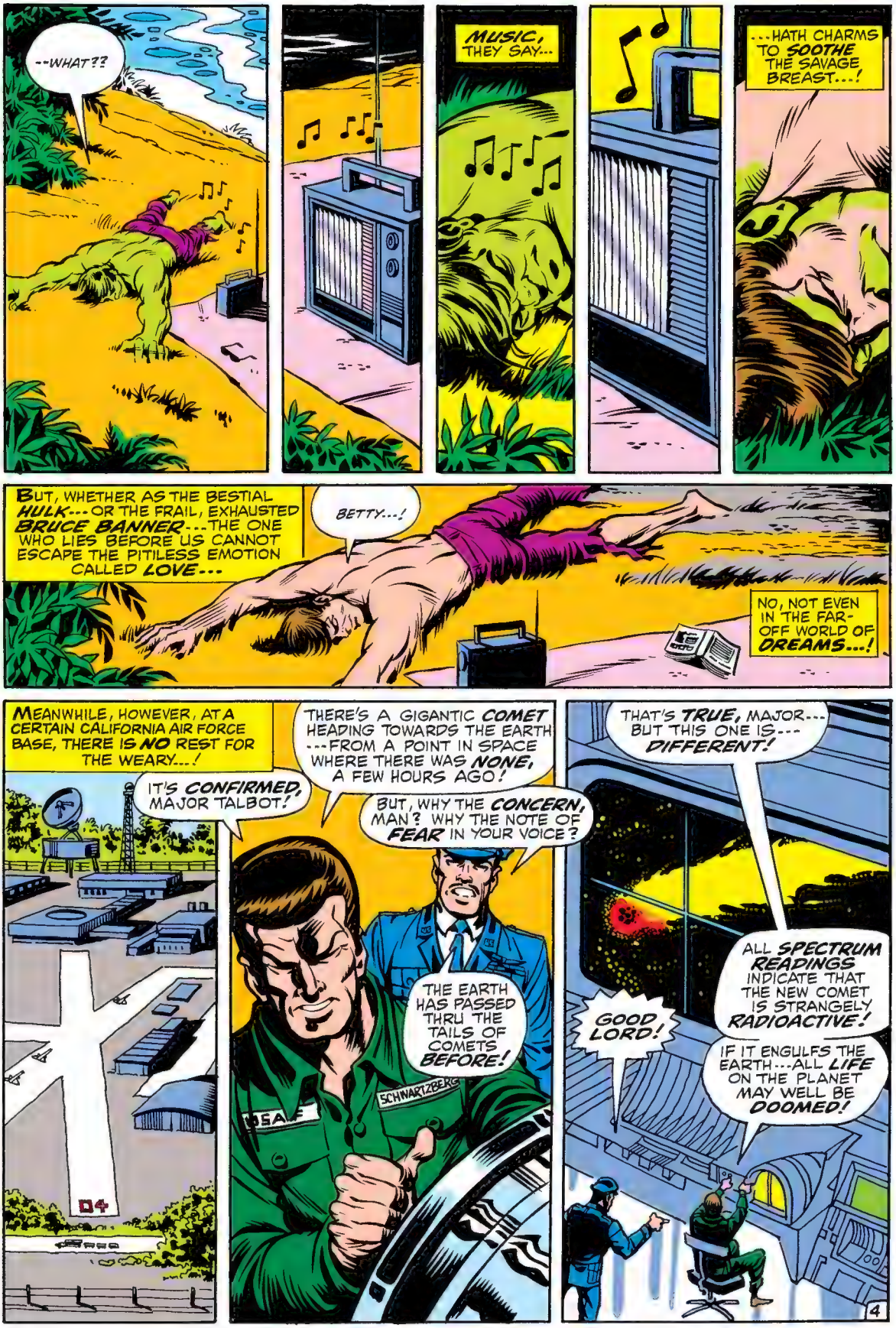
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

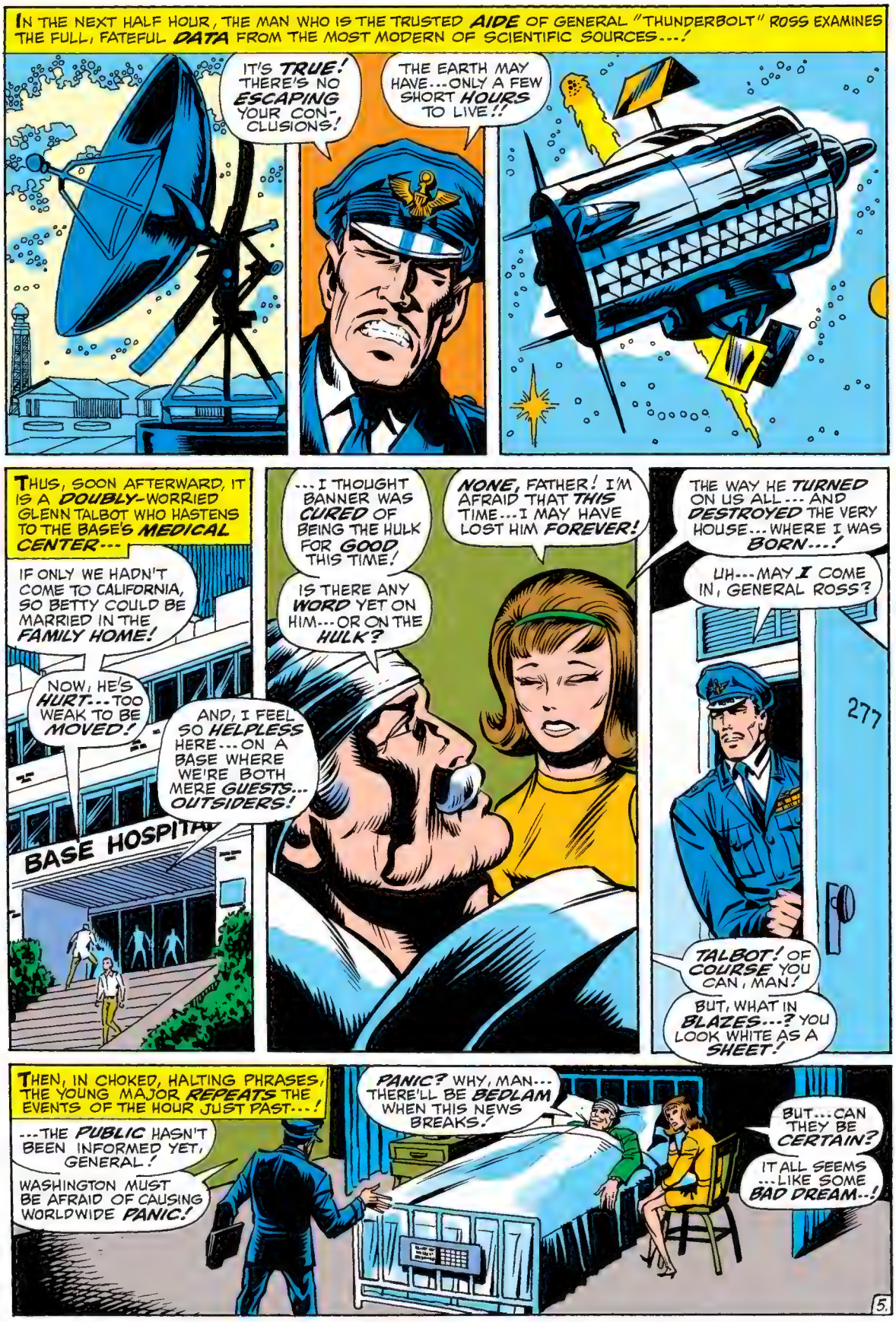
ONLY BRIEF HOURS AGO, THE COOL, SCIENTIFIC MIND OF BRUCE BANNER RULED AT LAST SUPREME OVER THE BROODING, BRUTISH HULK... AND HE STOOD AT THE ALTAR, ABOUT TO MARRY THE GIRL HE LOVES! BUT THEN STRUCK THE REVENGE-MAD LEADER... AND NOW THE MONSTER HAS TRIUMPHED ONCE MORE OVER THE MAN...!
DON'T REMEMBER... DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!
HULK ONLY KNOWS THAT HE WAS HELPLESS ...HELD PRISONER BY THE MAN CALLED BRUCE BANNER!
BUT, NO ONE WILL EVER CAPTURE THE HULK AGAIN!
NO ONE!!
...AND NOW, THE ABSORBING MAN!

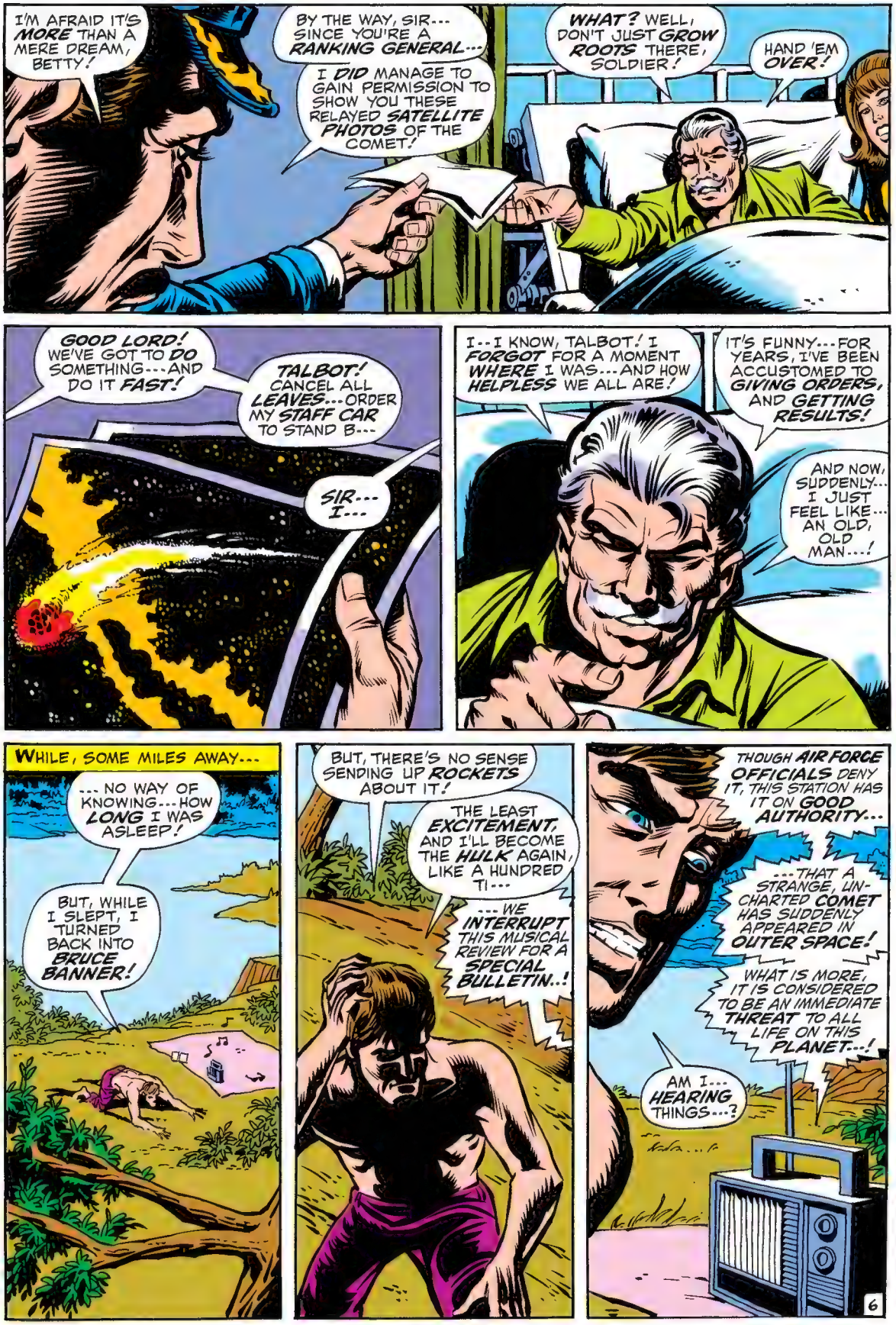
STAN LEE *EDITOR* • ROY THOMAS *WRITER* • HERB TRIMPE *ARTIST* • SAM ROSEN *LETTERER*

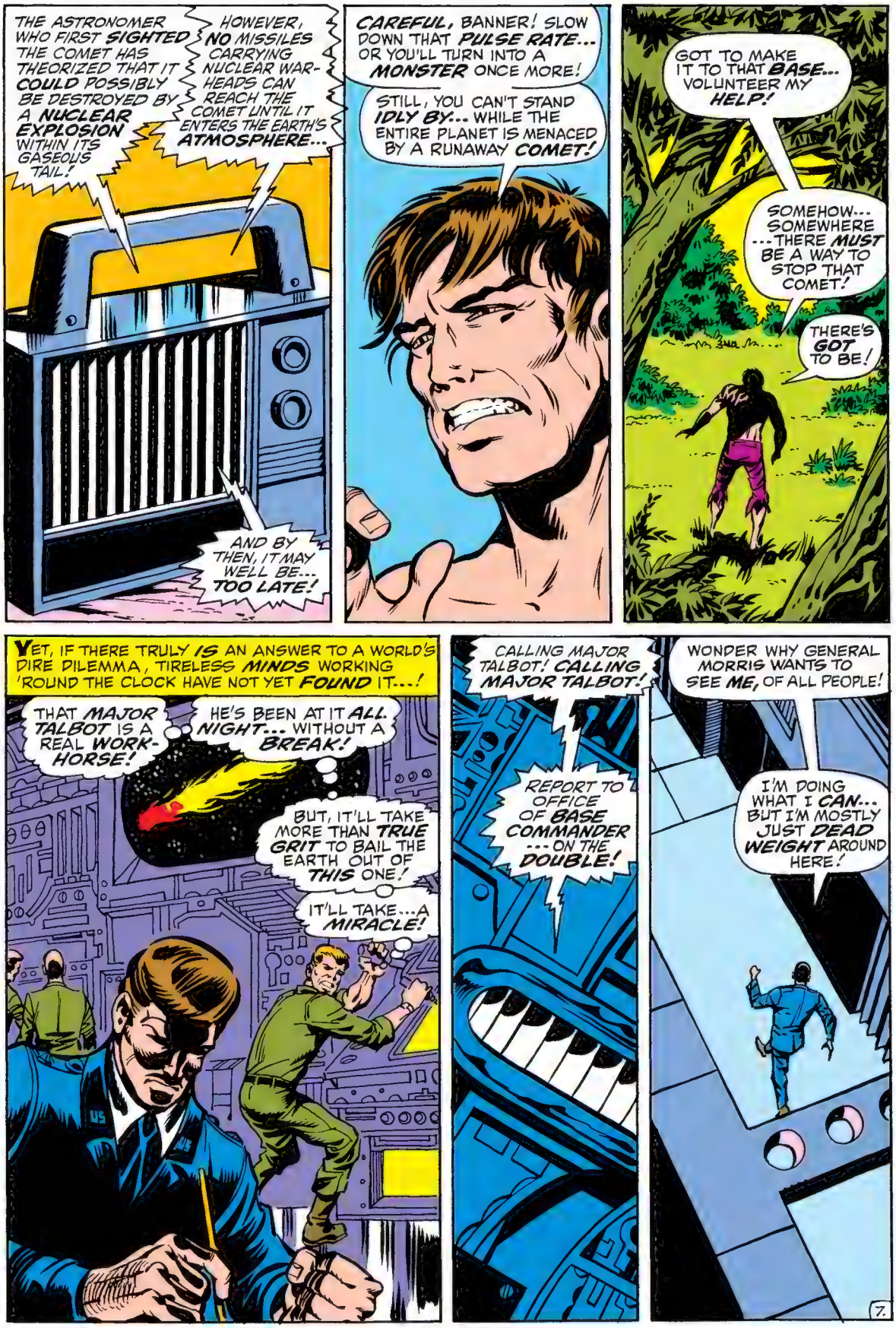
OVER THERE...TWO HUMANS!
ARE THEY A DANGER TO HULK, TOO?
NO... JUST A BOY AND A GIRL... OUT FOR PICNIC!
HULK REMEMBERS SOMETHING ABOUT A PICNIC...
...AND A GIRL... LIKE THE ONE BY THE LAKE!
AND... HAPPINESS! HULK REMEMBERS...SOMETHING ABOUT HAPPINESS!
THINK, HULK! WHY IS IT ALWAYS ...SO HARD... TO THINK??
PICTURES FORM IN HEAD NOW...OF THE GIRL...
...OF THE LAKE... OF HAPPINESS!
AND THEN... AND THEN...
KRRNCH!
NO!
HULK WON'T THINK ANY MORE! HE WON'T!
IT JUST CAUSES HIM... PAIN!
WH..WHO WAS TH..?
HARVEY...QUICK... RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
IT'S...THE HULK!
HE'S HERE!!
2.

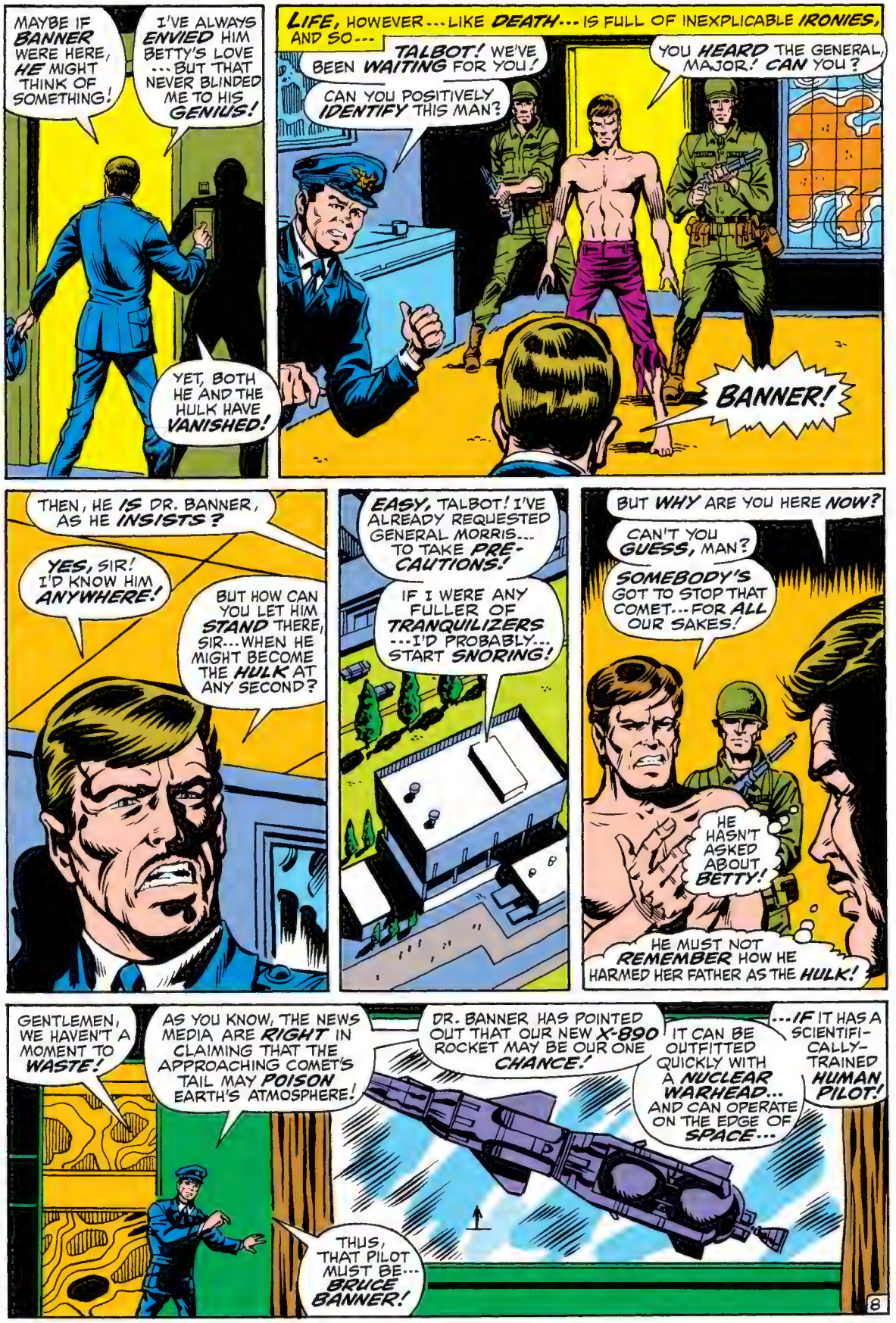

HULK'S BRAIN HURTS!
MUST DO SOMETHING ---TO MAKE IT STOP!
SKRUTCH!
MY CAR! HE'S TEARIN' UP MY NEW CONVERT!
BETTER IT THAN US! RUN!
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE..?
THE BOY... AND THE GIRL ---THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY!
EVERYBODY RUNS AWAY FROM THE HULK!
AND WHY SHOULDN'T THE PUNY HUMANS RUN?
ISN'T HULK THE STRONGEST ONE OF ALL?
YES! HULK CAN DO ANYTHING!
ANYTHING!
SPLOOSH!
ANYTHING... BUT STOP THE PAIN WHEN I THINK OF... THE GIRL CALLED BETTY!
WHAT IS THIS THING IN HULK'S BRAIN...
SO STRONG... THAT EVEN HULK CAN'T FIGHT IT...!
3.

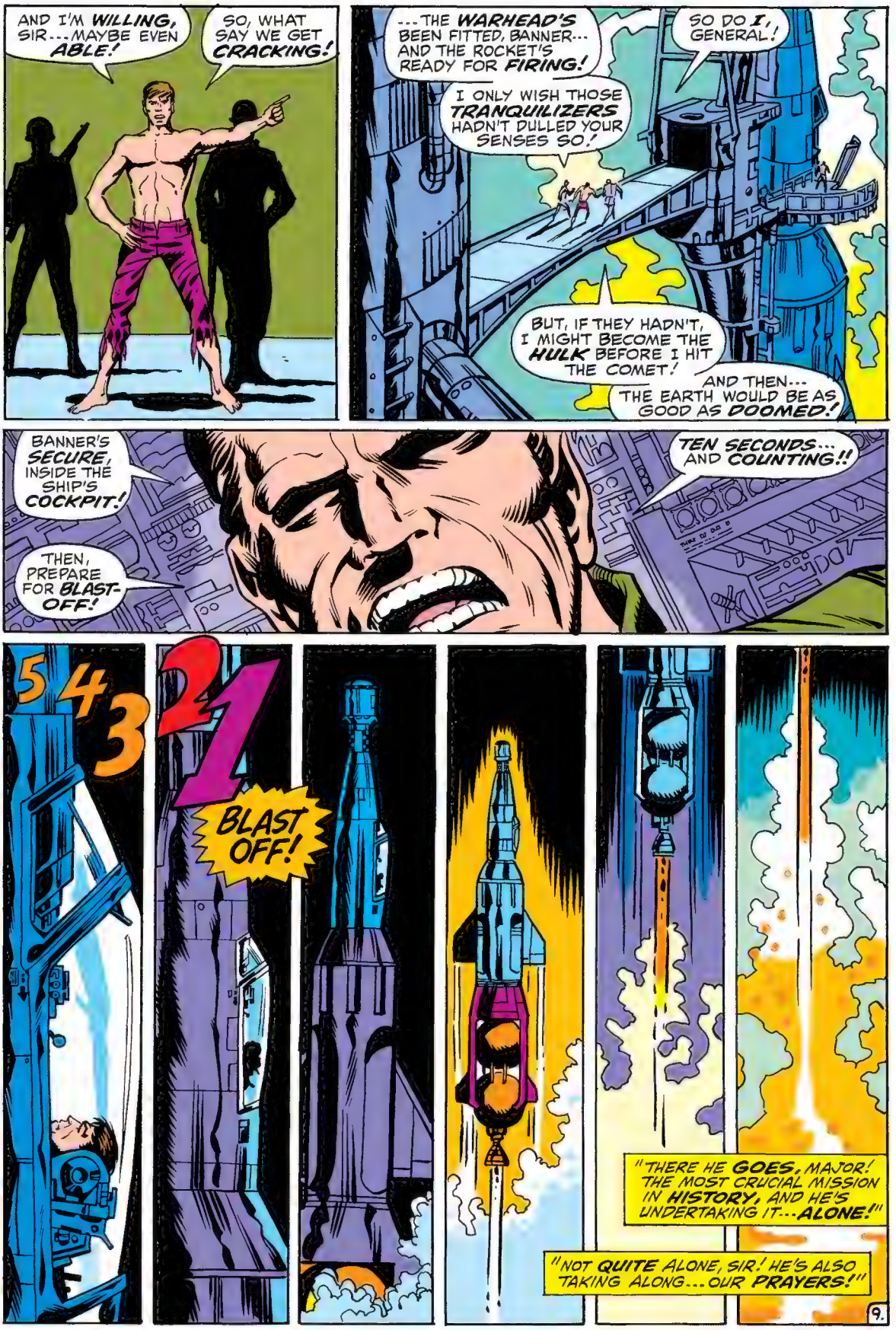

--WHAT??
MUSIC, THEY SAY...
...HATH CHARMS TO SOOTHE THE SAVAGE BREAST...!
BUT, WHETHER AS THE BESTIAL HULK--- OR THE FRAIL, EXHAUSTED BRUCE BANNER---THE ONE WHO LIES BEFORE US CANNOT ESCAPE THE PITILESS EMOTION CALLED LOVE---
BETTY...!
NO, NOT EVEN IN THE FAR-OFF WORLD OF DREAMS...!
MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, AT A CERTAIN CALIFORNIA AIR FORCE BASE, THERE IS NO REST FOR THE WEARY...!
IT'S CONFIRMED, MAJOR TALBOT!
THERE'S A GIGANTIC COMET HEADING TOWARDS THE EARTH ---FROM A POINT IN SPACE WHERE THERE WAS NONE, A FEW HOURS AGO!
BUT, WHY THE CONCERN, MAN? WHY THE NOTE OF FEAR IN YOUR VOICE?
THE EARTH HAS PASSED THRU THE TAILS OF COMETS BEFORE!
SCHWARTZBERG
THAT'S TRUE, MAJOR--- BUT THIS ONE IS--- DIFFERENT!
ALL SPECTRUM READINGS INDICATE THAT THE NEW COMET IS STRANGELY RADIOACTIVE!
GOOD LORD!
IF IT ENGULFS THE EARTH---ALL LIFE ON THE PLANET MAY WELL BE DOOMED!
4

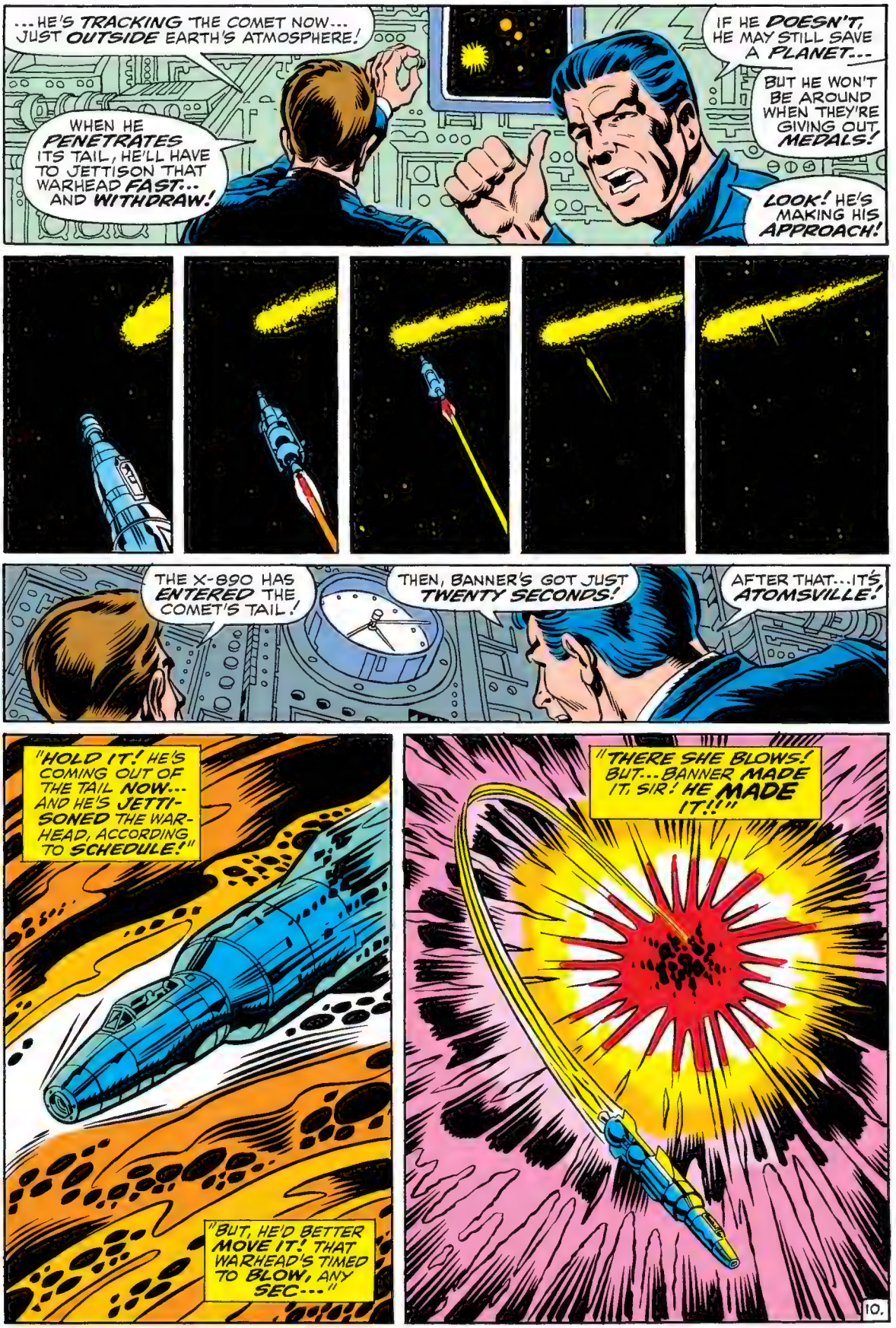

IN THE NEXT HALF HOUR, THE MAN WHO IS THE TRUSTED AIDE OF GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS EXAMINES THE FULL, FATEFUL DATA FROM THE MOST MODERN OF SCIENTIFIC SOURCES...!
IT'S TRUE! THERE'S NO ESCAPING YOUR CONCLUSIONS!
THE EARTH MAY HAVE...ONLY A FEW SHORT HOURS TO LIVE!!
THUS, SOON AFTERWARD, IT IS A DOUBLY-WORRIED GLENN TALBOT WHO HASTENS TO THE BASE'S MEDICAL CENTER...
IF ONLY WE HADN'T COME TO CALIFORNIA, SO BETTY COULD BE MARRIED IN THE FAMILY HOME!
NOW, HE'S HURT...TOO WEAK TO BE MOVED!
AND, I FEEL SO HELPLESS HERE...ON A BASE WHERE WE'RE BOTH MERE GUESTS... OUTSIDERS!
BASE HOSPITAL
...I THOUGHT BANNER WAS CURED OF BEING THE HULK FOR GOOD THIS TIME!
IS THERE ANY WORD YET ON HIM...OR ON THE HULK?
NONE, FATHER! I'M AFRAID THAT THIS TIME...I MAY HAVE LOST HIM FOREVER!
THE WAY HE TURNED ON US ALL... AND DESTROYED THE VERY HOUSE...WHERE I WAS BORN...!
UH...MAY I COME IN, GENERAL ROSS?
277
TALBOT! OF COURSE YOU CAN, MAN!
BUT, WHAT IN BLAZES...? YOU LOOK WHITE AS A SHEET!
THEN, IN CHOKED, HALTING PHRASES, THE YOUNG MAJOR REPEATS THE EVENTS OF THE HOUR JUST PAST...!
...THE PUBLIC HASN'T BEEN INFORMED YET, GENERAL!
WASHINGTON MUST BE AFRAID OF CAUSING WORLDWIDE PANIC!
PANIC? WHY, MAN... THERE'LL BE BEDLAM WHEN THIS NEWS BREAKS!
BUT...CAN THEY BE CERTAIN?
IT ALL SEEMS ...LIKE SOME BAD DREAM...!
5.

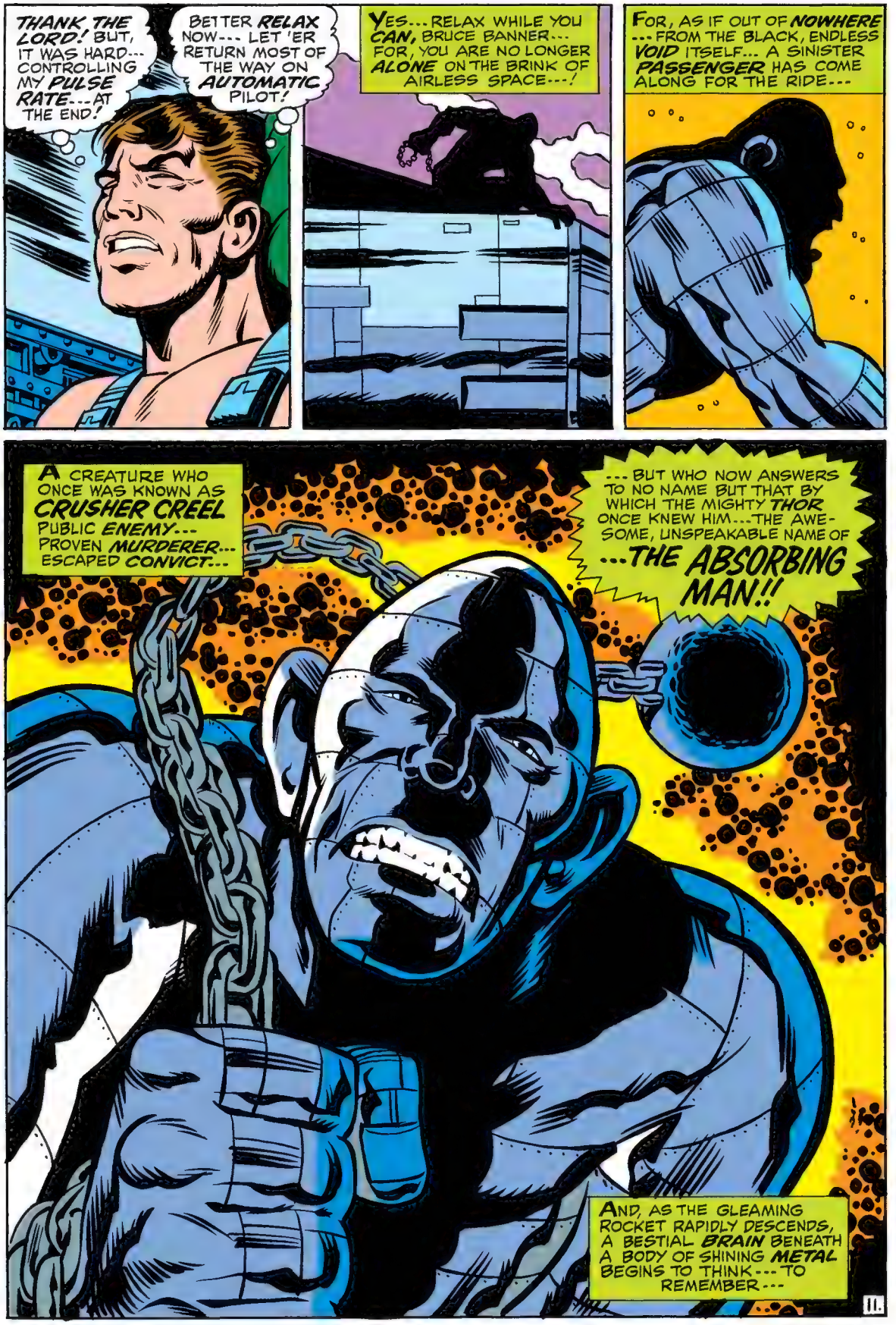

I'M AFRAID IT'S MORE THAN A MERE DREAM, BETTY!
BY THE WAY, SIR--- SINCE YOU'RE A RANKING GENERAL---
I DID MANAGE TO GAIN PERMISSION TO SHOW YOU THESE RELAYED SATELLITE PHOTOS OF THE COMET!
WHAT? WELL, DON'T JUST GROW ROOTS THERE, SOLDIER!
HAND 'EM OVER!
GOOD LORD! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING---AND DO IT FAST!
TALBOT! CANCEL ALL LEAVES---ORDER MY STAFF CAR TO STAND B---
SIR--- I---
I--I KNOW, TALBOT! I FORGOT FOR A MOMENT WHERE I WAS---AND HOW HELPLESS WE ALL ARE!
IT'S FUNNY---FOR YEARS, I'VE BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO GIVING ORDERS, AND GETTING RESULTS!
AND NOW, SUDDENLY... I JUST FEEL LIKE... AN OLD, OLD MAN...!
WHILE, SOME MILES AWAY---
--- NO WAY OF KNOWING---HOW LONG I WAS ASLEEP!
BUT, WHILE I SLEPT, I TURNED BACK INTO BRUCE BANNER!
BUT, THERE'S NO SENSE SENDING UP ROCKETS ABOUT IT!
THE LEAST EXCITEMENT, AND I'LL BECOME THE HULK AGAIN, LIKE A HUNDRED TI---
--- WE INTERRUPT THIS MUSICAL REVIEW FOR A SPECIAL BULLETIN..!
THOUGH AIR FORCE OFFICIALS DENY IT, THIS STATION HAS IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY...
---THAT A STRANGE, UN-CHARTED COMET HAS SUDDENLY APPEARED IN OUTER SPACE!
WHAT IS MORE, IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET---!
AM I--- HEARING THINGS---?
6


THE ASTRONOMER WHO FIRST SIGHTED THE COMET HAS THEORIZED THAT IT COULD POSSIBLY BE DESTROYED BY A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WITHIN ITS GASEOUS TAIL!
HOWEVER, NO MISSILES CARRYING NUCLEAR WARHEADS CAN REACH THE COMET UNTIL IT ENTERS THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE...
AND BY THEN, IT MAY WELL BE... TOO LATE!
CAREFUL, BANNER! SLOW DOWN THAT PULSE RATE... OR YOU'LL TURN INTO A MONSTER ONCE MORE!
STILL, YOU CAN'T STAND IDLY BY... WHILE THE ENTIRE PLANET IS MENACED BY A RUNAWAY COMET!
GOT TO MAKE IT TO THAT BASE... VOLUNTEER MY HELP!
SOMEHOW... SOMEWHERE ...THERE MUST BE A WAY TO STOP THAT COMET!
THERE'S GOT TO BE!
YET, IF THERE TRULY IS AN ANSWER TO A WORLD'S DIRE DILEMMA, TIRELESS MINDS WORKING 'ROUND THE CLOCK HAVE NOT YET FOUND IT...!
THAT MAJOR TALBOT IS A REAL WORK-HORSE!
HE'S BEEN AT IT ALL NIGHT... WITHOUT A BREAK!
BUT, IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN TRUE GRIT TO BAIL THE EARTH OUT OF THIS ONE!
IT'LL TAKE...A MIRACLE!
CALLING MAJOR TALBOT! CALLING MAJOR TALBOT!
REPORT TO OFFICE OF BASE COMMANDER ...ON THE DOUBLE!
WONDER WHY GENERAL MORRIS WANTS TO SEE ME, OF ALL PEOPLE!
I'M DOING WHAT I CAN... BUT I'M MOSTLY JUST DEAD WEIGHT AROUND HERE!
7.


MAYBE IF BANNER WERE HERE, HE MIGHT THINK OF SOMETHING!
I'VE ALWAYS ENVIED HIM BETTY'S LOVE ...BUT THAT NEVER BLINDED ME TO HIS GENIUS!
YET, BOTH HE AND THE HULK HAVE VANISHED!
LIFE, HOWEVER ...LIKE DEATH... IS FULL OF INEXPLICABLE IRONIES, AND SO...
TALBOT! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
CAN YOU POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THIS MAN?
YOU HEARD THE GENERAL, MAJOR! CAN YOU?
BANNER!
THEN, HE IS DR. BANNER, AS HE INSISTS?
YES, SIR! I'D KNOW HIM ANYWHERE!
BUT HOW CAN YOU LET HIM STAND THERE, SIR...WHEN HE MIGHT BECOME THE HULK AT ANY SECOND?
EASY, TALBOT! I'VE ALREADY REQUESTED GENERAL MORRIS... TO TAKE PRE-CAUTIONS!
IF I WERE ANY FULLER OF TRANQUILIZERS ...I'D PROBABLY... START SNORING!
BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE NOW?
CAN'T YOU GUESS, MAN?
SOMEBODY'S GOT TO STOP THAT COMET...FOR ALL OUR SAKES!
HE HASN'T ASKED ABOUT BETTY!
HE MUST NOT REMEMBER HOW HE HARMED HER FATHER AS THE HULK!
GENTLEMEN, WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO WASTE!
AS YOU KNOW, THE NEWS MEDIA ARE RIGHT IN CLAIMING THAT THE APPROACHING COMET'S TAIL MAY POISON EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!
DR. BANNER HAS POINTED OUT THAT OUR NEW X-890 ROCKET MAY BE OUR ONE CHANCE!
IT CAN BE OUTFITTED QUICKLY WITH A NUCLEAR WARHEAD... AND CAN OPERATE ON THE EDGE OF SPACE...
...IF IT HAS A SCIENTIFI-CALLY-TRAINED HUMAN PILOT!
THUS, THAT PILOT MUST BE... BRUCE BANNER!

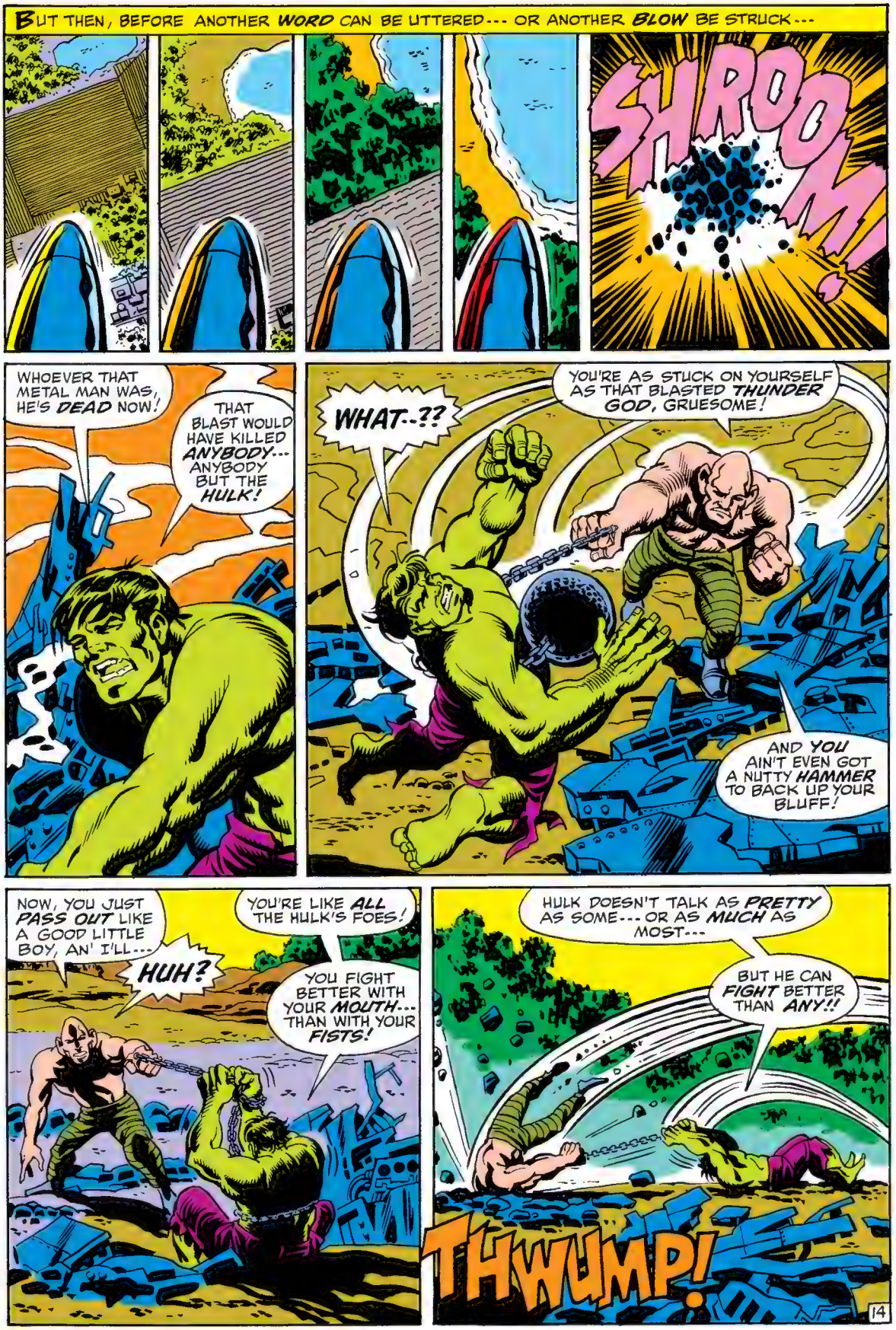

AND I'M WILLING, SIR...MAYBE EVEN ABLE!
SO, WHAT SAY WE GET CRACKING!
...THE WARHEAD'S BEEN FITTED, BANNER... AND THE ROCKET'S READY FOR FIRING!
SO DO I, GENERAL!
I ONLY WISH THOSE TRANQUILIZERS HADN'T DULLED YOUR SENSES SO!
BUT, IF THEY HADN'T, I MIGHT BECOME THE HULK BEFORE I HIT THE COMET!
AND THEN... THE EARTH WOULD BE AS GOOD AS DOOMED!
BANNER'S SECURE, INSIDE THE SHIP'S COCKPIT!
TEN SECONDS... AND COUNTING!!
THEN, PREPARE FOR BLAST-OFF!
5
4
3
2
1
BLAST OFF!
"THERE HE GOES, MAJOR! THE MOST CRUCIAL MISSION IN HISTORY, AND HE'S UNDERTAKING IT...ALONE!"
"NOT QUITE ALONE, SIR! HE'S ALSO TAKING ALONG...OUR PRAYERS!"

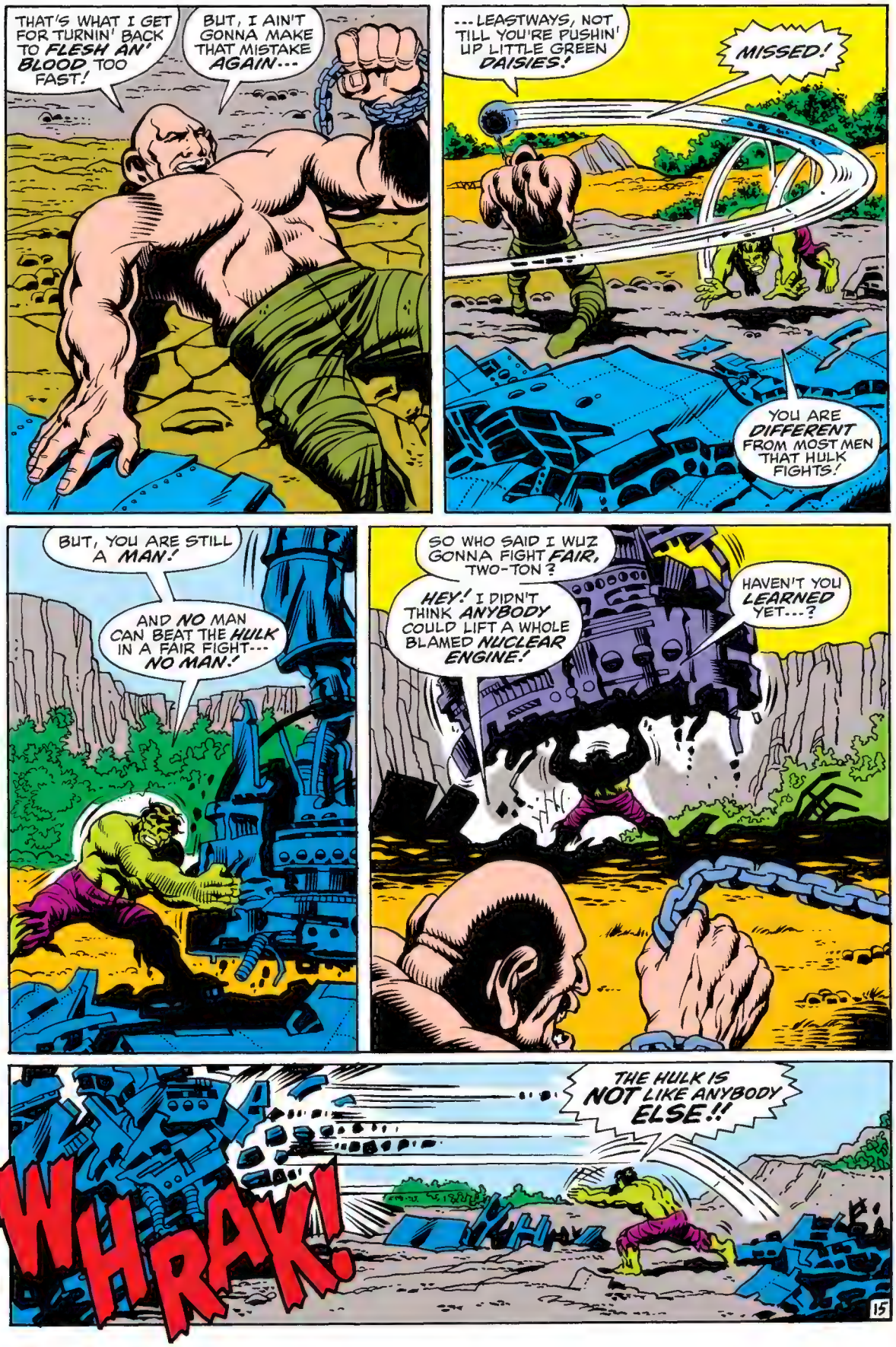

...HE'S TRACKING THE COMET NOW... JUST OUTSIDE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!
WHEN HE PENETRATES ITS TAIL, HE'LL HAVE TO JETTISON THAT WARHEAD FAST... AND WITHDRAW!
IF HE DOESN'T, HE MAY STILL SAVE A PLANET...
BUT HE WON'T BE AROUND WHEN THEY'RE GIVING OUT MEDALS!
LOOK! HE'S MAKING HIS APPROACH!
THE X-890 HAS ENTERED THE COMET'S TAIL!
THEN, BANNER'S GOT JUST TWENTY SECONDS!
AFTER THAT...IT'S ATOMSVILLE!
"HOLD IT! HE'S COMING OUT OF THE TAIL NOW... AND HE'S JETTISONED THE WARHEAD, ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE!"
"BUT, HE'D BETTER MOVE IT! THAT WARHEAD'S TIMED TO BLOW, ANY SEC---"
"THERE SHE BLOWS! BUT... BANNER MADE IT, SIR! HE MADE IT!!"


THANK THE LORD! BUT, IT WAS HARD--- CONTROLLING MY PULSE RATE---AT THE END!
BETTER RELAX NOW--- LET 'ER RETURN MOST OF THE WAY ON AUTOMATIC PILOT!
YES---RELAX WHILE YOU CAN, BRUCE BANNER--- FOR, YOU ARE NO LONGER ALONE ON THE BRINK OF AIRLESS SPACE---!
FOR, AS IF OUT OF NOWHERE ---FROM THE BLACK, ENDLESS VOID ITSELF... A SINISTER PASSENGER HAS COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE---
A CREATURE WHO ONCE WAS KNOWN AS CRUSHER CREEL PUBLIC ENEMY--- PROVEN MURDERER--- ESCAPED CONVICT---
---BUT WHO NOW ANSWERS TO NO NAME BUT THAT BY WHICH THE MIGHTY THOR ONCE KNEW HIM---THE AWE-SOME, UNSPEAKABLE NAME OF ---THE ABSORBING MAN!!
AND, AS THE GLEAMING ROCKET RAPIDLY DESCENDS, A BESTIAL BRAIN BENEATH A BODY OF SHINING METAL BEGINS TO THINK---TO REMEMBER---

---TO REMEMBER THE FREEZING COLD OF OUTER SPACE---INTO WHICH CRUSHER CREEL HAD BEEN HURLED BY A VENGEFUL ODIN---!*
*AS IMMORTALIZED IN THOR# 123! ---STAN.
HELPLESS HAD HE DRIFTED, FOR LONG MONTHS...UNTIL A WANDERING COMET HAD AT LAST CROSSED HIS PATH---!
THEN, USING HIS GOD-GRANTED ABILITY TO BECOME ANY SUBSTANCE WHICH HE TOUCHED, HE HAD BECOME AS ONE WITH THE COMET---!
HE HAD BECOME ITS MIND, ITS ESSENCE... STEERING IT NEARER, EVER NEARER TO THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH!
AND NOW, THE MOMENT OF TRIUMPHAL RETURN WAS AT HAND...
FOR, HE HAD SEEN THE EARTH-SENT SHIP... HAD TURNED TO STEEL-HARD METAL AS HE GRASPED IT...AND NOW...
I'M BACK...AND THE HIGH-AND-MIGHTY THOR'S GONNA WISH I WUZN'T!
ANY MINUTE NOW, WE'LL BE LANDIN' ... AND THEN...
WHAT'S THAT...IN MY REAR MONITOR?
THERE'S A MAN CLINGING TO THE OUTER HULL OF THE SHIP...A MAN MADE OUT OF THE SAME METAL AS THE ROCKET!
BUT HE'S ALIVE...HIS EYES SEETHING WITH SHEER HOSTILITY!
I CAN ALMOST FEEL HIS HATRED--LIKE A LIVING THING!!
OH NO...NO...I SHOULDN'T HAVE ALLOWED MYSELF ... TO BECOME EXCITED!
NOW I'M CHANGING ...BECOMING ONCE AGAIN THE MONSTER THAT DWELLS WITHIN THE MAN--!
12

FROM THE WAY THAT MILQUETOAST INSIDE IS ACTIN'---
IT'S A SURE BET HE'S SPOTTED OL' CRUSHER IN HIS REAR-VIEW MIRROR!
TOO BAD HE AIN'T GONNA LIVE TO TELL NOBODY ABOUT IT!!
SMAASH!
THERE! THAT LITTLE LOVE-TAP SHOULD'VE FINISHED 'IM, SO---
WHAT IN BLAZES? SOMEBODY'S CLIMBIN' UP--- OUTTA THE ROCKET--!
THAT BLOW MIGHT HAVE KILLED SOME-ONE WHO WAS HUMAN---
--- BUT THE HULK ISN'T HUMAN!!
I DON'T KNOW HOW A GREEN-SKINNED PLUG-UGLY LIKE YOU GOT IN THAT COCKPIT---
BUT, I TRAVELED A ZILLION MILES THRU SPACE TO GET BACK TO EARTH!
AN' IF I HAFTA KILL A GUY OR TWO NOW THAT I'M HERE---
--- WHY, AIN'T THAT JUST TOO BAD??
13


BUT THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED--- OR ANOTHER BLOW BE STRUCK---
SHROOM!
WHOEVER THAT METAL MAN WAS, HE'S DEAD NOW!
THAT BLAST WOULD HAVE KILLED ANYBODY--- ANYBODY BUT THE HULK!
WHAT--??
YOU'RE AS STUCK ON YOURSELF AS THAT BLASTED THUNDER GOD, GRUESOME!
AND YOU AIN'T EVEN GOT A NUTTY HAMMER TO BACK UP YOUR BLUFF!
NOW, YOU JUST PASS OUT LIKE A GOOD LITTLE BOY, AN' I'LL---
HUH?
YOU'RE LIKE ALL THE HULK'S FOES!
YOU FIGHT BETTER WITH YOUR MOUTH--- THAN WITH YOUR FISTS!
HULK DOESN'T TALK AS PRETTY AS SOME--- OR AS MUCH AS MOST---
BUT HE CAN FIGHT BETTER THAN ANY!!
THWUMP!
14

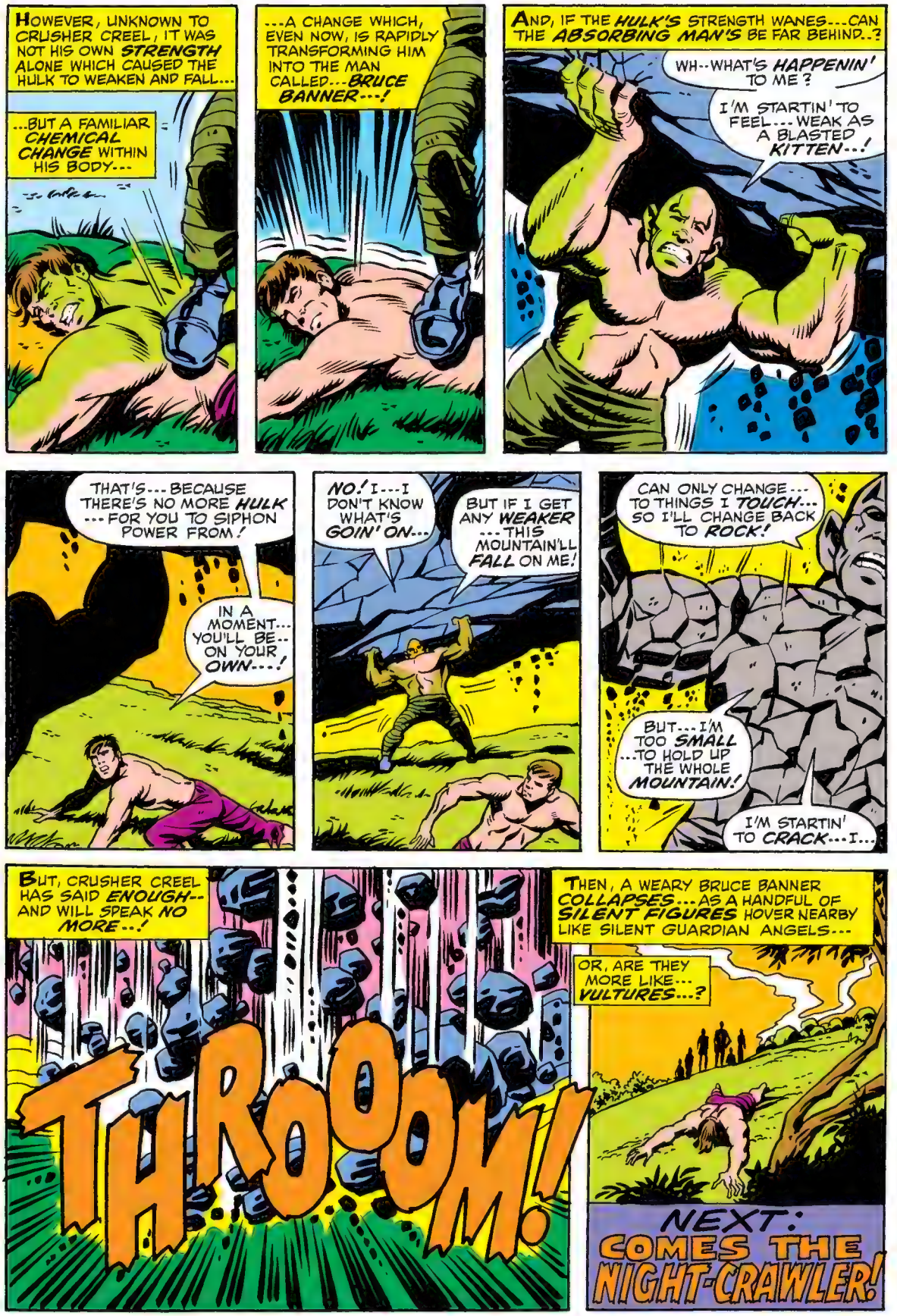

THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR TURNIN' BACK TO FLESH AN' BLOOD TOO FAST!
BUT, I AIN'T GONNA MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN---
---LEASTWAYS, NOT TILL YOU'RE PUSHIN' UP LITTLE GREEN DAISIES!
MISSED!
YOU ARE DIFFERENT FROM MOST MEN THAT HULK FIGHTS!
BUT, YOU ARE STILL A MAN!
AND NO MAN CAN BEAT THE HULK IN A FAIR FIGHT--- NO MAN!
SO WHO SAID I WUZ GONNA FIGHT FAIR, TWO-TON?
HEY! I DIDN'T THINK ANYBODY COULD LIFT A WHOLE BLAMED NUCLEAR ENGINE!
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED YET---?
WHRAK!
THE HULK IS NOT LIKE ANYBODY ELSE!!

NO, YOU AIN'T... 'CAUSE YOU'RE SO STUPID IT'S DOWNRIGHT FUNNY!
OTHERWISE YOU'D HAVE FIGURED OUT THAT I WANTED YOU TO TOSS THAT ENGINE MY WAY...
SO I COULD ABSORB THE ENERGY IT WAS STILL RADIATIN'...
...AN' BE ABLE TO DO... THIS!!
SKRUNNCH!
HE STUCK HIS HANDS INTO THE GROUND...AND THE EARTH IS MELTING...
...MELTING ALL AROUND HULK'S FEET!
HULK IS... SINKING... CAN'T EVEN JUMP...!
THIS IS THE WAY IT HADDA END, CREEP...
...FROM THE MINNIT YOU TANGLED WITH THE ABSORBING MAN!
SO... AT LAST, HULK KNOWS... THE NAME OF THE ONE HE FIGHTS!
BUT, THAT WON'T HELP HULK...
...AS HE SINKS INTO THIS RED-HOT MUD... DEEPER, DEEPER!
MUST THINK OF SOMETHING... SOMETHING THAT WILL SAVE HULK...
BUT, IT'S ALWAYS SO HARD... SO HARD TO THINK..!
GIVE IT UP, GREENIE! YOU AIN'T CUT OUT FOR IT!

WAIT!
IF HULK CAN'T JUMP OUT OF STRANGE MELTING MUD---
HE CAN DIVE INTO IT---LIKE THIS!
SPLUTCH!
HE'S GONE...AND THAT'S THE SAME KIND'A TREATMENT I'M GONNA GIVE THOR WHEN---
WAITAMINNIT! WHY'S THE GROUND SHAKIN' UNDER ME?
SURE---THAT'S GOTTA BE IT! IT'S THE HULK--- HE'S DIGGIN' HIS WAY TOWARD--
BRRAK!
THAT TOOK SOME OF THE FIGHT OUT OF HIM!
DON'T KNOW WHY HE WANTS TO HURT HULK ---WHY HE WON'T LEAVE HULK ALONE!
BUT, IF HE WANTS A FIGHT---
HULK WILL GIVE IT TO HIM!
17

AND WHEN HULK IS THRU, ABSORBING MAN WILL NEVER FIGHT AGAIN---
NEVER!
THAT SHEER CLIFF IN FRONT'A ME---!
NO! NOOOO!!
KUH-
KOOM!
NOW MAYBE HULK WILL KNOW PEACE AGAIN! MAYBE---
NO! IT CAN'T BE! HULK CAN'T BELIEVE HIS EYES--!
ALMOST BLEW MY COOL A MINNIT AGO, GRUESOME!
BUT, SOON AS I REMEMBERED WHO I WUZ---AND WHAT I WUZ---
I KNEW THE IMPACT WOULD ONLY TURN ME INTO---SOLID STONE!
NOW GET READY TO MEET YER MAKER... 'CAUSE IT'S TIME FOR THE FINAL ROUND!!
18

THEN, THE TWO HUGE, BRUTISH FORMS SQUARE OFF EACH AGAINST THE OTHER... NEITHER OF THEM NOTICING THE STRANGELY SILENT YOUTHS WHO STAND OBSERVING THEM FROM A NEARBY HILLOCK...!
SO...YOU DARE TO THREATEN HULK AGAIN!
WELL, THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME... JUST LIKE YOU SAID!
THAT PUNY BALL AND CHAIN WON'T HELP YOU AGAINST...THE HULK!
I WUZN'T AIMIN' FOR IT TO, DUM-DUM...
'CAUSE, I JUST RE-MEMBERED SOMETHIN' I NEVER SHOULD'A FERGOT!
I CAN ABSORB THE STRENGTH OF LIVIN' THINGS...AS EASILY AS METAL OR ROCK!
THAT MEANS I CAN ADD YOUR MIGHT...TO MY OWN!
AND NOBODY CAN BEAT SOMEBODY WHO'S ALWAYS JUST A LITTLE BIT STRONGER THAN THEY ARE ...NOBODY!
DOWN...DOWN THE BATTLING HULK IS FORCED, UNTIL...
HE'S FALLEN... AND THAT MAKES ME THE FIRST MAN ALIVE EVER TO BEAT THE HULK!
AND, I'M ALSO GONNA BE THE LAST!
KRUKK
AND, AS THE FEW ON-LOOKERS STARE IN STARK DISBELIEF...
I'M GONNA BURY YOU, HULK...UNDER THIS WHOLE BLAMED HILL-SIDE!
AND, I'M USIN' YOUR OWN POWER TO DO IT!
POWER WHICH I'M ABSORBIN' JUST BY STANDIN' OVER YOU LIKE THIS!

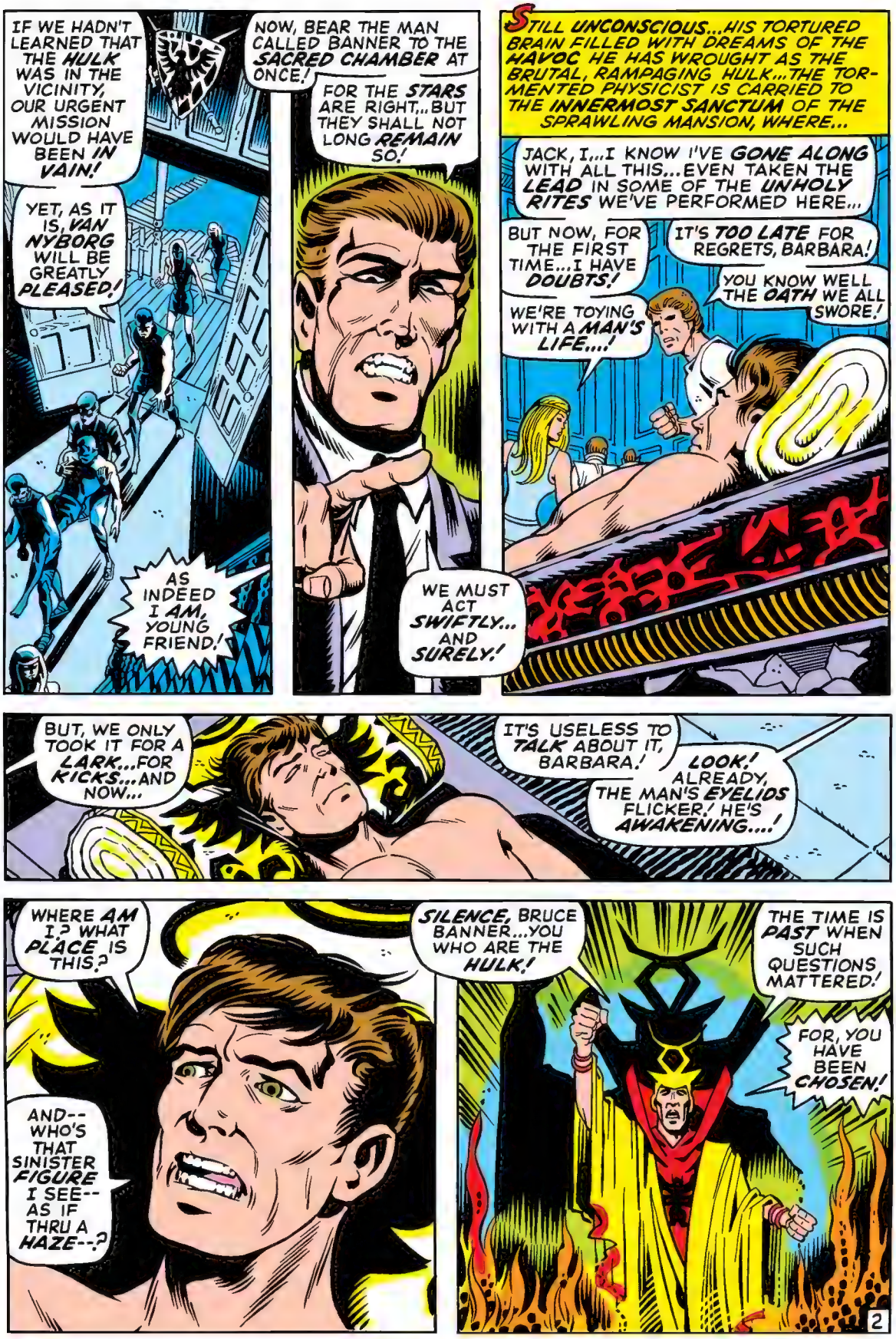

HOWEVER, UNKNOWN TO CRUSHER CREEL, IT WAS NOT HIS OWN STRENGTH ALONE WHICH CAUSED THE HULK TO WEAKEN AND FALL...
...BUT A FAMILIAR CHEMICAL CHANGE WITHIN HIS BODY---
---A CHANGE WHICH, EVEN NOW, IS RAPIDLY TRANSFORMING HIM INTO THE MAN CALLED---BRUCE BANNER---!
AND, IF THE HULK'S STRENGTH WANES---CAN THE ABSORBING MAN'S BE FAR BEHIND..?
WH--WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO ME?
I'M STARTIN' TO FEEL---WEAK AS A BLASTED KITTEN--!
THAT'S---BECAUSE THERE'S NO MORE HULK ---FOR YOU TO SIPHON POWER FROM!
IN A MOMENT... YOU'LL BE-- ON YOUR OWN---!
NO! I---I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON---
BUT IF I GET ANY WEAKER ---THIS MOUNTAIN'LL FALL ON ME!
CAN ONLY CHANGE--- TO THINGS I TOUCH--- SO I'LL CHANGE BACK TO ROCK!
BUT...I'M TOO SMALL ...TO HOLD UP THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN!
I'M STARTIN' TO CRACK---I...
BUT, CRUSHER CREEL HAS SAID ENOUGH-- AND WILL SPEAK NO MORE--!
THROOM!
THEN, A WEARY BRUCE BANNER COLLAPSES...AS A HANDFUL OF SILENT FIGURES HOVER NEARBY LIKE SILENT GUARDIAN ANGELS---
OR, ARE THEY MORE LIKE--- VULTURES...?
NEXT: COMES THE NIGHT-CRAWLER!

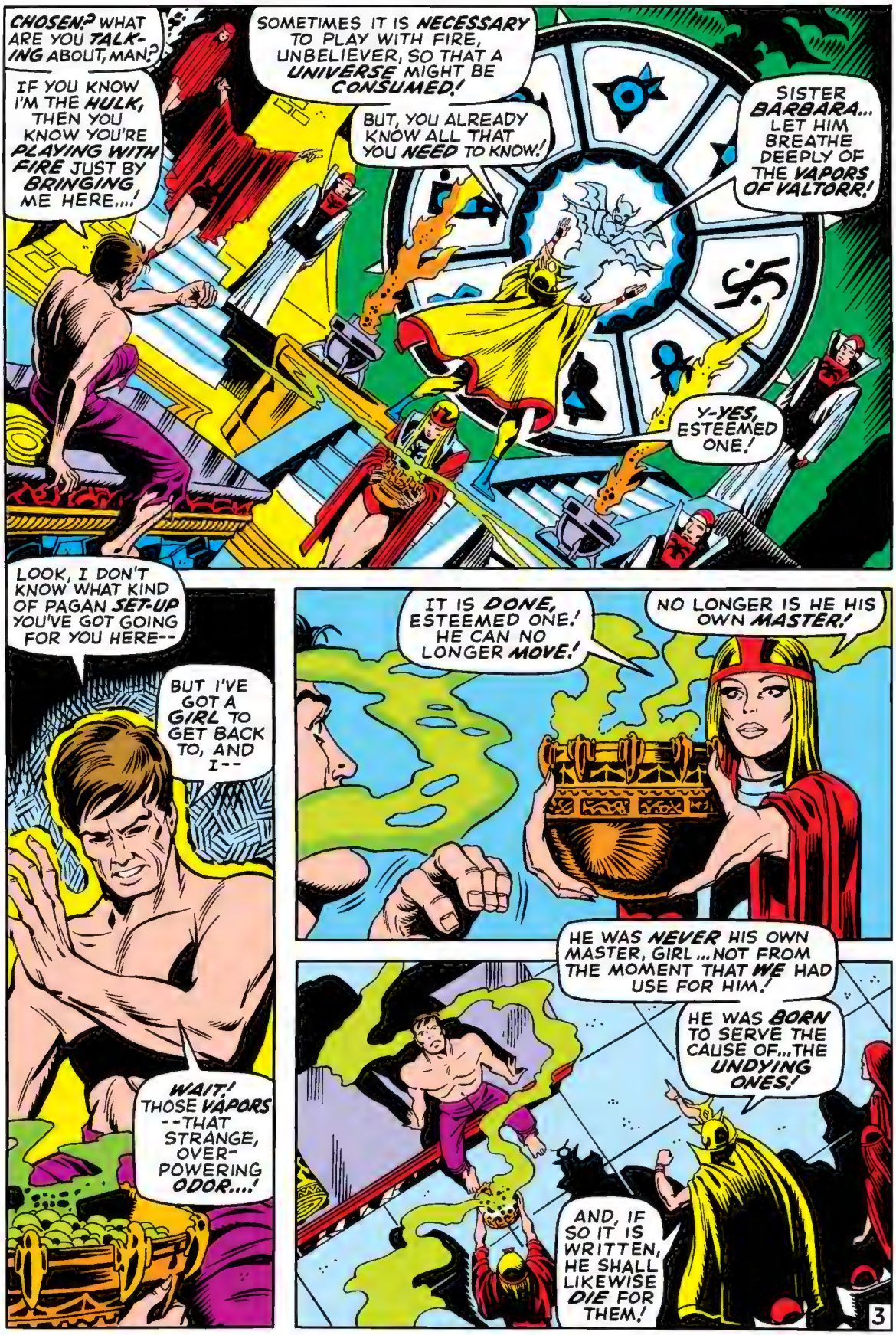
INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
126
APR
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
TRIMPE
THE HULK IS DOOMED!
HE'LL NEVER DEFEAT---
THE NIGHT-CRAWLER!

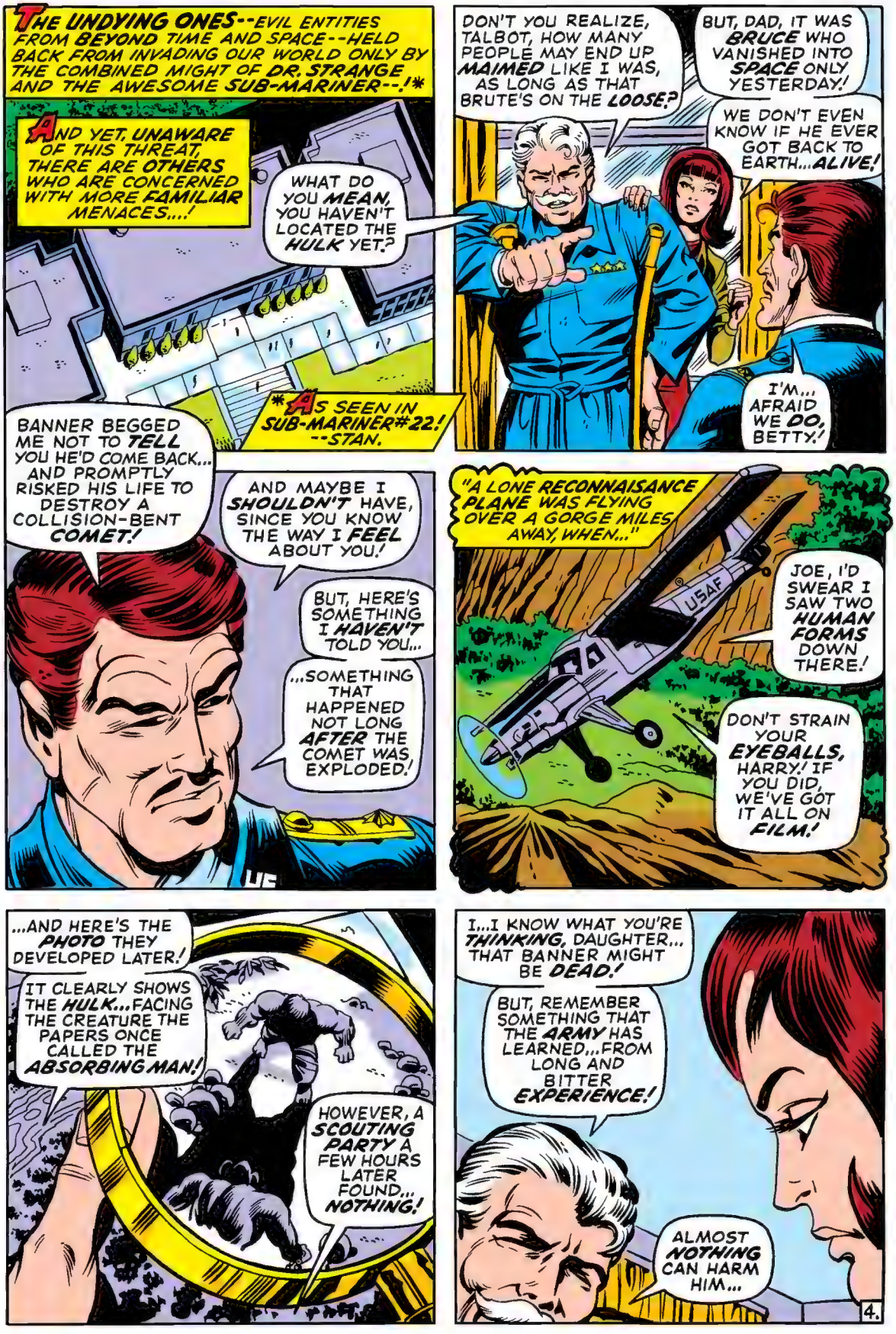
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

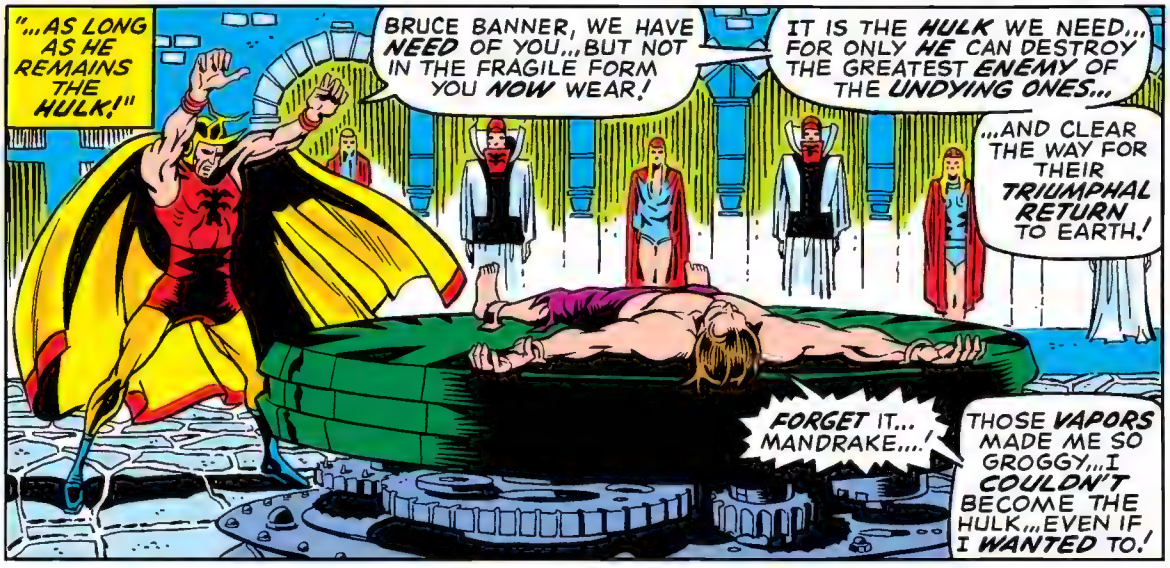
BUT, THERE'S NO MORE TIME TO WASTE ON MERE WORDS!
TAKE HIM TO THE CAR...AND WITH IT, TO CLIFF-HOUSE!
AND, TAKE CARE THAT YOU DON'T HARM HIM IN ANY WAY...

...WHERE STALKS THE NIGHT-CRAWLER!
A JOURNEY INTO REALMS UNKNOWN, WITH YOUR TIRELESS TOUR GUIDES:
STAN LEE EDITOR • ROY THOMAS WRITER • HERB TRIMPE ARTIST
ARTIE SIMEK, ROAD-MAP SALESMAN
11B

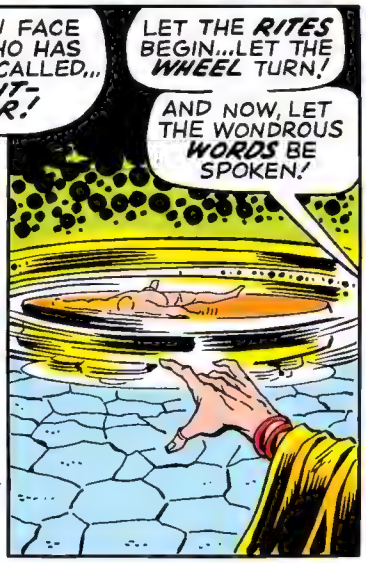

IF WE HADN'T LEARNED THAT THE HULK WAS IN THE VICINITY, OUR URGENT MISSION WOULD HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!
YET, AS IT IS, VAN NYBORG WILL BE GREATLY PLEASED!
AS INDEED I AM, YOUNG FRIEND!
NOW, BEAR THE MAN CALLED BANNER TO THE SACRED CHAMBER AT ONCE!
FOR THE STARS ARE RIGHT,..BUT THEY SHALL NOT LONG REMAIN SO!
WE MUST ACT SWIFTLY... AND SURELY!
STILL UNCONSCIOUS...HIS TORTURED BRAIN FILLED WITH DREAMS OF THE HAVOC HE HAS WROUGHT AS THE BRUTAL, RAMPAGING HULK...THE TORMENTED PHYSICIST IS CARRIED TO THE INNERMOST SANCTUM OF THE SPRAWLING MANSION, WHERE...
JACK, I...I KNOW I'VE GONE ALONG WITH ALL THIS...EVEN TAKEN THE LEAD IN SOME OF THE UNHOLY RITES WE'VE PERFORMED HERE...
BUT NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME...I HAVE DOUBTS!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR REGRETS, BARBARA!
YOU KNOW WELL THE OATH WE ALL SWORE!
WE'RE TOYING WITH A MAN'S LIFE....!
BUT, WE ONLY TOOK IT FOR A LARK...FOR KICKS...AND NOW...
IT'S USELESS TO TALK ABOUT IT, BARBARA!
LOOK! ALREADY, THE MAN'S EYELIDS FLICKER! HE'S AWAKENING....!
WHERE AM I? WHAT PLACE IS THIS?
AND--WHO'S THAT SINISTER FIGURE I SEE--AS IF THRU A HAZE--?
SILENCE, BRUCE BANNER...YOU WHO ARE THE HULK!
THE TIME IS PAST WHEN SUCH QUESTIONS MATTERED!
FOR, YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN!
2


CHOSEN? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAN?
IF YOU KNOW I'M THE HULK, THEN YOU KNOW YOU'RE PLAYING WITH FIRE JUST BY BRINGING ME HERE....!
SOMETIMES IT IS NECESSARY TO PLAY WITH FIRE, UNBELIEVER, SO THAT A UNIVERSE MIGHT BE CONSUMED!
BUT, YOU ALREADY KNOW ALL THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!
SISTER BARBARA... LET HIM BREATHE DEEPLY OF THE VAPORS OF VALTORR!
Y-YES, ESTEEMED ONE!
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF PAGAN SET-UP YOU'VE GOT GOING FOR YOU HERE--
BUT I'VE GOT A GIRL TO GET BACK TO, AND I--
WAIT! THOSE VAPORS --THAT STRANGE, OVER-POWERING ODOR....!
IT IS DONE, ESTEEMED ONE! HE CAN NO LONGER MOVE!
NO LONGER IS HE HIS OWN MASTER!
HE WAS NEVER HIS OWN MASTER, GIRL ...NOT FROM THE MOMENT THAT WE HAD USE FOR HIM!
HE WAS BORN TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF...THE UNDYING ONES!
AND, IF SO IT IS WRITTEN, HE SHALL LIKEWISE DIE FOR THEM!
3


THE UNDYING ONES--EVIL ENTITIES FROM BEYOND TIME AND SPACE--HELD BACK FROM INVADING OUR WORLD ONLY BY THE COMBINED MIGHT OF DR. STRANGE AND THE AWESOME SUB-MARINER--!*
AND YET, UNAWARE OF THIS THREAT, THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH MORE FAMILIAR MENACES...!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU HAVEN'T LOCATED THE HULK YET?
*AS SEEN IN SUB-MARINER#22! --STAN.
DON'T YOU REALIZE, TALBOT, HOW MANY PEOPLE MAY END UP MAIMED LIKE I WAS, AS LONG AS THAT BRUTE'S ON THE LOOSE?
BUT, DAD, IT WAS BRUCE WHO VANISHED INTO SPACE ONLY YESTERDAY!
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE EVER GOT BACK TO EARTH...ALIVE!
I'M... AFRAID WE DO, BETTY!
BANNER BEGGED ME NOT TO TELL YOU HE'D COME BACK... AND PROMPTLY RISKED HIS LIFE TO DESTROY A COLLISION-BENT COMET!
AND MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE, SINCE YOU KNOW THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT YOU!
BUT, HERE'S SOMETHING I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU...
...SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED NOT LONG AFTER THE COMET WAS EXPLODED!
"A LONE RECONNAISANCE PLANE WAS FLYING OVER A GORGE MILES AWAY, WHEN..."
USAF
JOE, I'D SWEAR I SAW TWO HUMAN FORMS DOWN THERE!
DON'T STRAIN YOUR EYEBALLS, HARRY! IF YOU DID, WE'VE GOT IT ALL ON FILM!
...AND HERE'S THE PHOTO THEY DEVELOPED LATER!
IT CLEARLY SHOWS THE HULK...FACING THE CREATURE THE PAPERS ONCE CALLED THE ABSORBING MAN!
HOWEVER, A SCOUTING PARTY A FEW HOURS LATER FOUND... NOTHING!
I...I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, DAUGHTER... THAT BANNER MIGHT BE DEAD!
BUT, REMEMBER SOMETHING THAT THE ARMY HAS LEARNED...FROM LONG AND BITTER EXPERIENCE!
ALMOST NOTHING CAN HARM HIM...
4.

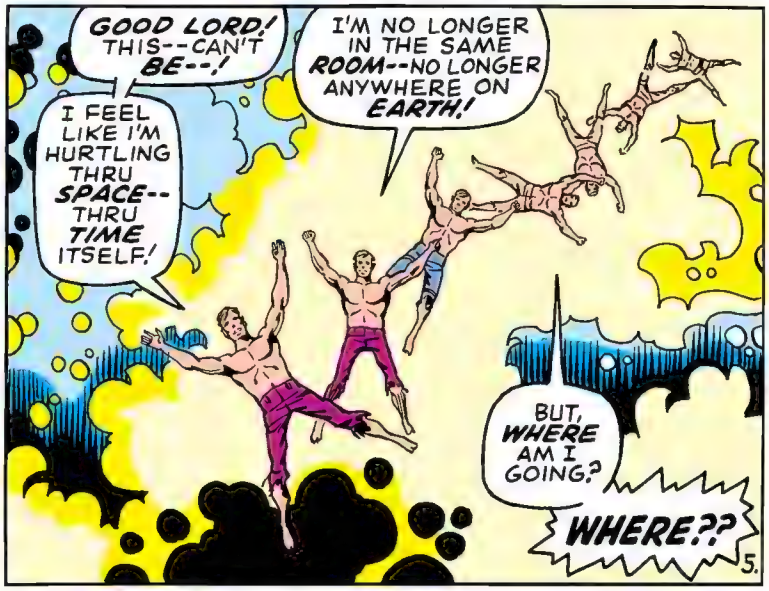

"...AS LONG AS HE REMAINS THE HULK!"
BRUCE BANNER, WE HAVE NEED OF YOU...BUT NOT IN THE FRAGILE FORM YOU NOW WEAR!
IT IS THE HULK WE NEED... FOR ONLY HE CAN DESTROY THE GREATEST ENEMY OF THE UNDYING ONES...
...AND CLEAR THE WAY FOR THEIR TRIUMPHAL RETURN TO EARTH!
FORGET IT... MANDRAKE...!
THOSE VAPORS MADE ME SO GROGGY...I COULDN'T BECOME THE HULK...EVEN IF I WANTED TO!

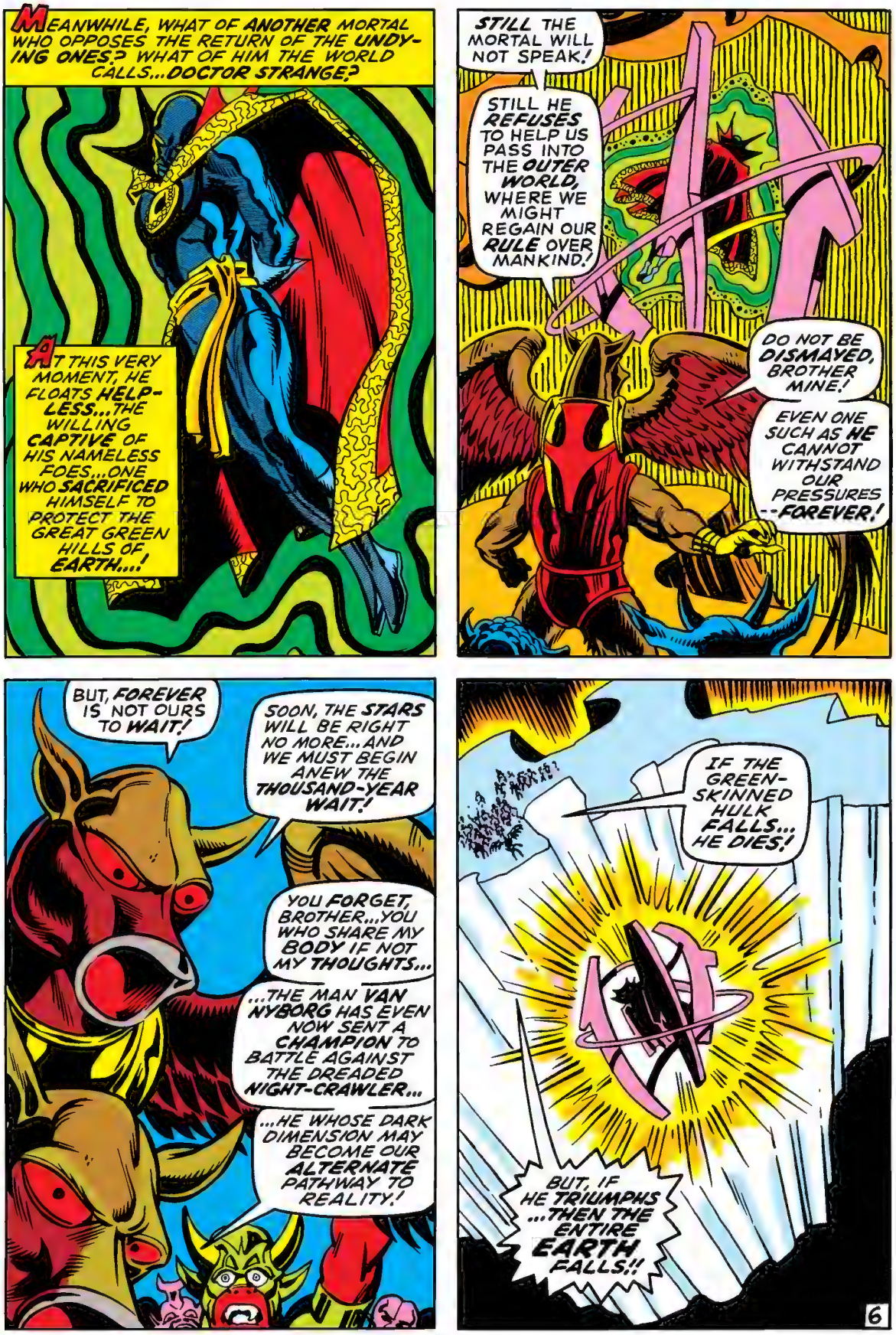
WE SHALL SEE IF THAT HOLDS TRUE, FOOL...
...WHEN YOU FACE THE ONE WHO HAS EVER BEEN CALLED... THE NIGHT-CRAWLER!

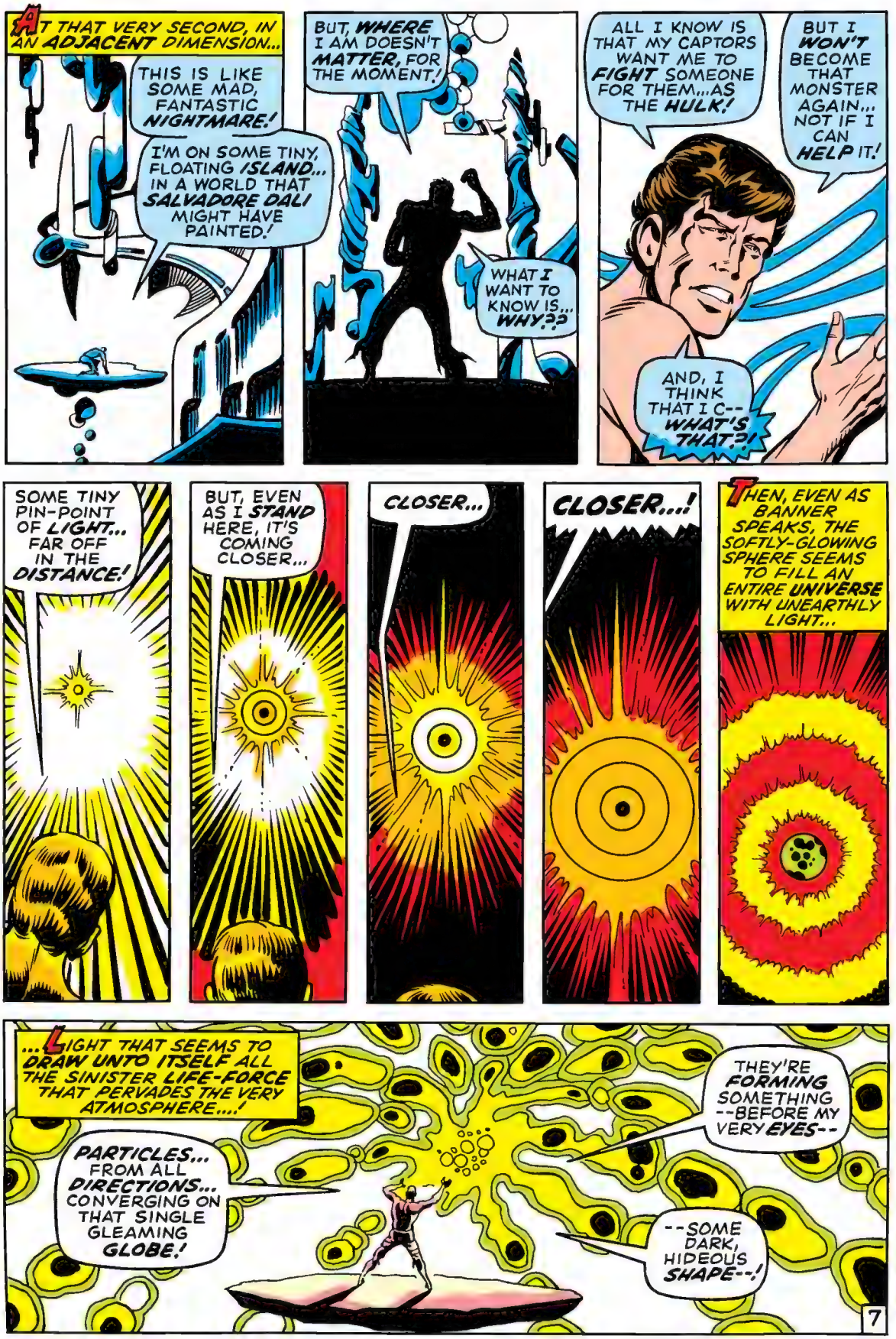

LET THE RITES BEGIN...LET THE WHEEL TURN!
AND NOW, LET THE WONDROUS WORDS BE SPOKEN!

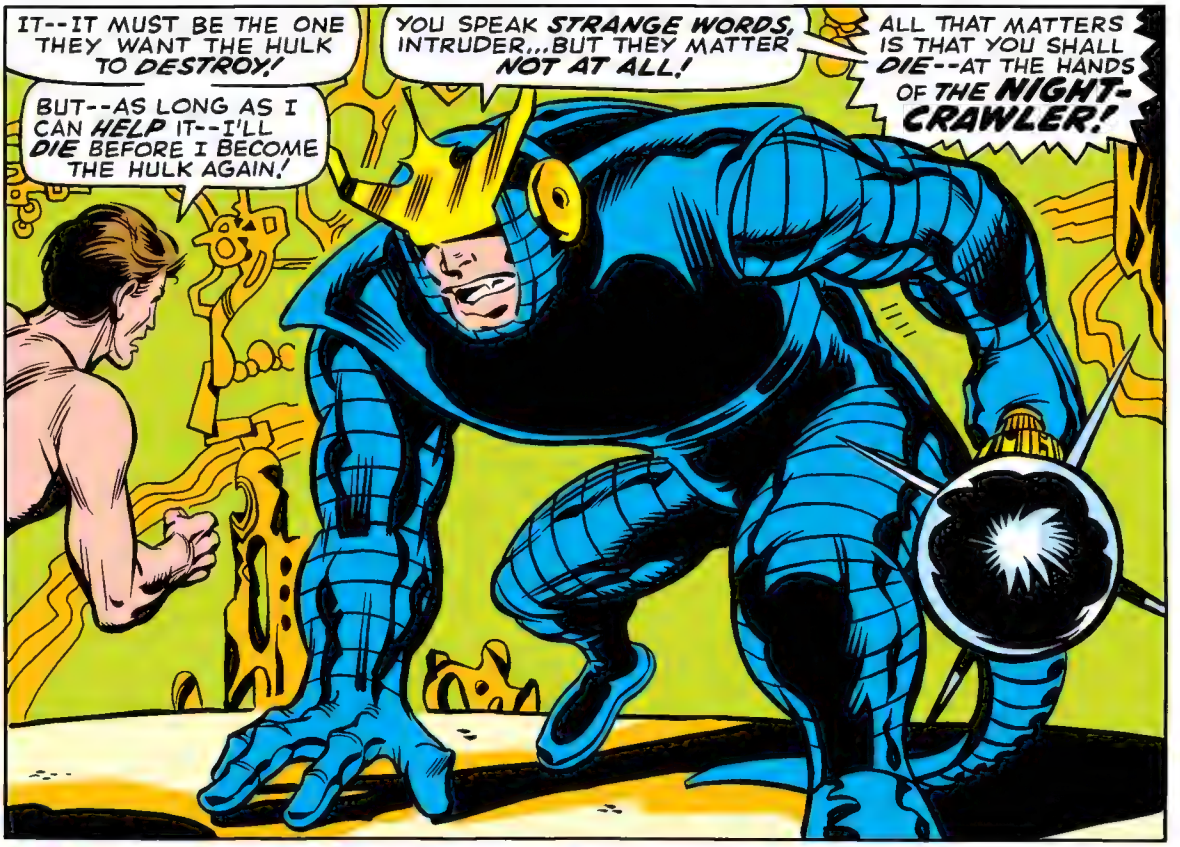
LET THE SPINNING DISK BE WHIRLED, LIKE THE WINDS OF WILD WATOOMB... LET THE MAN WHO THUS IS HURLED USHER IN A PLANET'S DOOM...!

LET SATANNISH GRANT THEE POWER... AND DORMAMMU GIVE THEE SPEED... THAT ERE LONG MAY SOUND THE HOUR THE UNDYING ONES ARE FREED!!


GOOD LORD! THIS--CAN'T BE--!
I'M NO LONGER IN THE SAME ROOM--NO LONGER ANYWHERE ON EARTH!
I FEEL LIKE I'M HURTLING THRU SPACE-- THRU TIME ITSELF!
BUT, WHERE AM I GOING?
WHERE??
5.


MEANWHILE, WHAT OF ANOTHER MORTAL WHO OPPOSES THE RETURN OF THE UNDYING ONES? WHAT OF HIM THE WORLD CALLS...DOCTOR STRANGE?
AT THIS VERY MOMENT, HE FLOATS HELPLESS...THE WILLING CAPTIVE OF HIS NAMELESS FOES...ONE WHO SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO PROTECT THE GREAT GREEN HILLS OF EARTH....!
STILL THE MORTAL WILL NOT SPEAK!
STILL HE REFUSES TO HELP US PASS INTO THE OUTER WORLD, WHERE WE MIGHT REGAIN OUR RULE OVER MANKIND!
DO NOT BE DISMAYED, BROTHER MINE!
EVEN ONE SUCH AS HE CANNOT WITHSTAND OUR PRESSURES --FOREVER!
BUT, FOREVER IS NOT OURS TO WAIT!
SOON, THE STARS WILL BE RIGHT NO MORE...AND WE MUST BEGIN ANEW THE THOUSAND-YEAR WAIT!
YOU FORGET, BROTHER...YOU WHO SHARE MY BODY IF NOT MY THOUGHTS...
...THE MAN VAN NYBORG HAS EVEN NOW SENT A CHAMPION TO BATTLE AGAINST THE DREADED NIGHT-CRAWLER...
...HE WHOSE DARK DIMENSION MAY BECOME OUR ALTERNATE PATHWAY TO REALITY!
IF THE GREEN-SKINNED HULK FALLS... HE DIES!
BUT, IF HE TRIUMPHS ...THEN THE ENTIRE EARTH FALLS!!
6

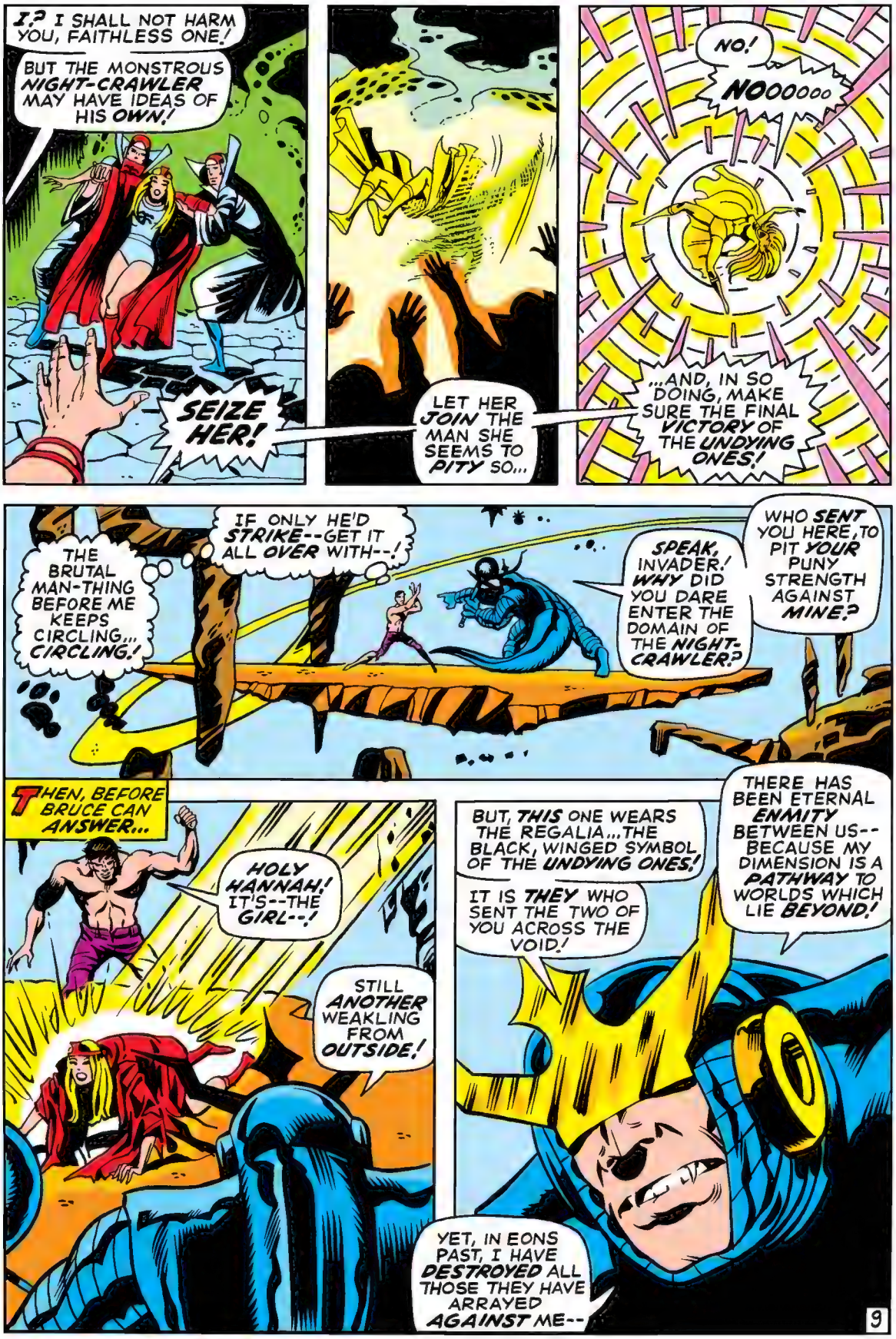

AT THAT VERY SECOND, IN AN ADJACENT DIMENSION...
THIS IS LIKE SOME MAD, FANTASTIC NIGHTMARE!
I'M ON SOME TINY, FLOATING ISLAND... IN A WORLD THAT SALVADORE DALI MIGHT HAVE PAINTED!
BUT, WHERE I AM DOESN'T MATTER, FOR THE MOMENT!
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS... WHY?!?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT MY CAPTORS WANT ME TO FIGHT SOMEONE FOR THEM...AS THE HULK!
BUT I WON'T BECOME THAT MONSTER AGAIN... NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
AND, I THINK THAT I C-- WHAT'S THAT?!
SOME TINY PIN-POINT OF LIGHT... FAR OFF IN THE DISTANCE!
BUT, EVEN AS I STAND HERE, IT'S COMING CLOSER...
CLOSER...
CLOSER...!
THEN, EVEN AS BANNER SPEAKS, THE SOFTLY-GLOWING SPHERE SEEMS TO FILL AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE WITH UNEARTHLY LIGHT...
...LIGHT THAT SEEMS TO DRAW UNTO ITSELF ALL THE SINISTER LIFE-FORCE THAT PERVADES THE VERY ATMOSPHERE....!
PARTICLES... FROM ALL DIRECTIONS... CONVERGING ON THAT SINGLE GLEAMING GLOBE!
THEY'RE FORMING SOMETHING --BEFORE MY VERY EYES--
--SOME DARK, HIDEOUS SHAPE--!


IT--IT MUST BE THE ONE THEY WANT THE HULK TO DESTROY!
BUT--AS LONG AS I CAN HELP IT--I'LL DIE BEFORE I BECOME THE HULK AGAIN!
YOU SPEAK STRANGE WORDS, INTRUDER...BUT THEY MATTER NOT AT ALL!
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU SHALL DIE--AT THE HANDS OF THE NIGHT-CRAWLER!

WHILE, IN THE SHADOW-HAUNTED HOUSE WHERE BRUCE BANNER LAY, MERE MOMENTS AGO...
THE FOOL IS FIGHTING BACK THE FEARS WHICH FLOOD HIS MIND!
I CAN SENSE THAT HE WOULD RATHER DIE THAN BECOME AGAIN THE MINDLESS BRUTE HE WAS!
WE MUST OVERCOME HIS GRIM FATALISM... SOMEHOW...!

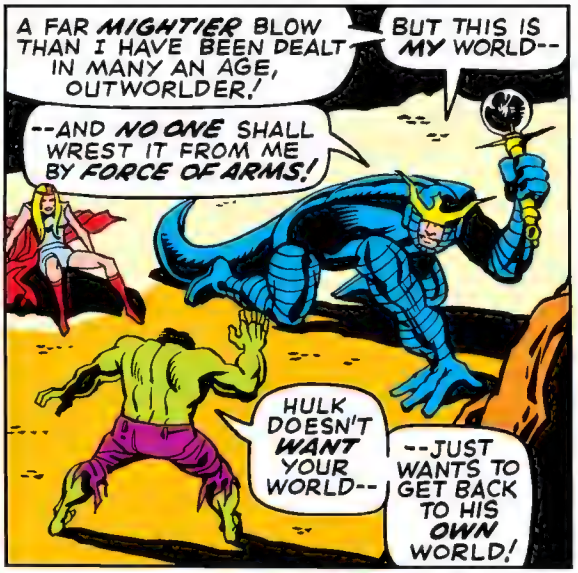
NO, VAN NYBORG--WE MUST NOT!!
I SEE NOW WE'VE ALL BEEN WRONG TO SERVE YOU IN YOUR MAD QUEST!
YOU TREAT HUMAN LIFE LIKE SOME WORTHLESS TOY--AND YOU MUST BE STOPPED!!

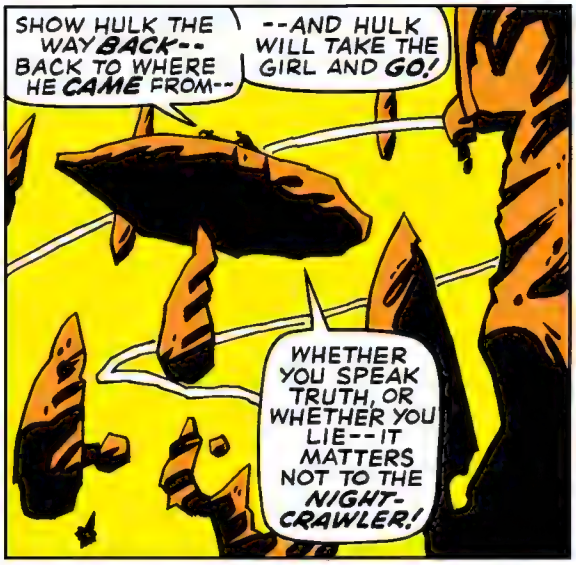
SO, SISTER BARBARA... YOU WOULD DEFY ONE WHO SERVES THE UNCANNY UNDYING ONES!?
I ALWAYS SENSED THAT YOU WERE MERELY CURIOUS ABOUT OUR CAUSE...NOT DEVOTED TO IT!
BUT NOW, YOU SHALL SERVE IT...IN THE MOST IMPORTANT WAY OF ALL!
YOUR EYES --THE WAY YOU'RE STARING--!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME--?

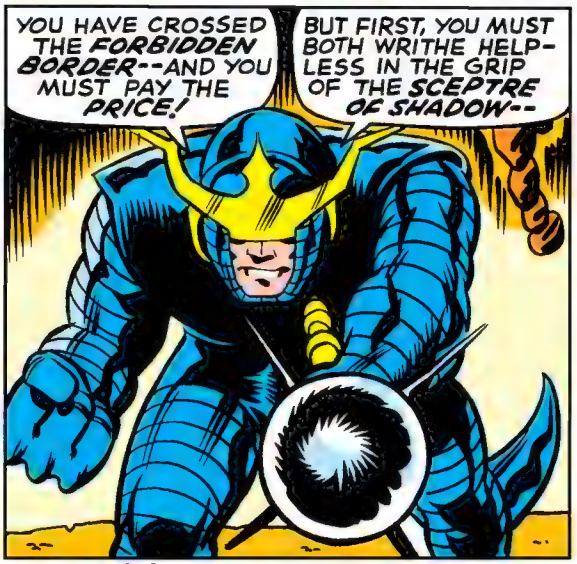

I? I SHALL NOT HARM YOU, FAITHLESS ONE!
BUT THE MONSTROUS NIGHT-CRAWLER MAY HAVE IDEAS OF HIS OWN!
SEIZE HER!
LET HER JOIN THE MAN SHE SEEMS TO PITY SO...
NO!
NOOOOOO
...AND, IN SO DOING, MAKE SURE THE FINAL VICTORY OF THE UNDYING ONES!
THE BRUTAL MAN-THING BEFORE ME KEEPS CIRCLING... CIRCLING!
IF ONLY HE'D STRIKE--GET IT ALL OVER WITH--!
SPEAK, INVADER! WHY DID YOU DARE ENTER THE DOMAIN OF THE NIGHT-CRAWLER?
WHO SENT YOU HERE, TO PIT YOUR PUNY STRENGTH AGAINST MINE?
THEN, BEFORE BRUCE CAN ANSWER...
HOLY HANNAH! IT'S--THE GIRL--!
STILL ANOTHER WEAKLING FROM OUTSIDE!
BUT, THIS ONE WEARS THE REGALIA...THE BLACK, WINGED SYMBOL OF THE UNDYING ONES!
IT IS THEY WHO SENT THE TWO OF YOU ACROSS THE VOID!
THERE HAS BEEN ETERNAL ENMITY BETWEEN US--BECAUSE MY DIMENSION IS A PATHWAY TO WORLDS WHICH LIE BEYOND!
YET, IN EONS PAST, I HAVE DESTROYED ALL THOSE THEY HAVE ARRAYED AGAINST ME--
9

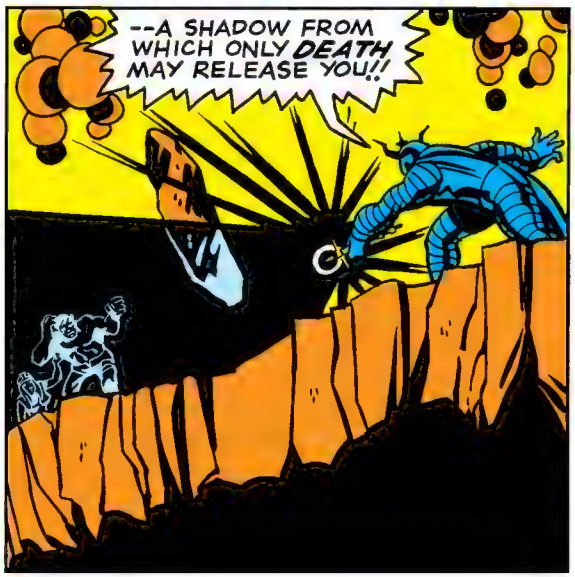
NOR SHALL YOU SUFFER ANY DIFFERENT FATE!
HE GRABBED THE GIRL-- BECAUSE SHE WAS CLOSEST!
I SWORE I WOULDN'T BECOME THE HULK...THAT I'D FIGHT DOWN THE RACING PULSE...THE FRANTIC HEARTBEAT!
AND I WOULD HAVE...EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT I DIED IN THIS FEARFUL, FORSAKEN WORLD!
BUT THAT GIRL-- SHE'S SO HELPLESS --SO TERRIFIED--!
NO! IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING--I WON'T LET IT--!
MY HEART'S GOING LIKE A TRIP-HAMMER...
MY BRAIN-- IT'S LIKE A THING AFIRE...!
WAIT! NOW-- THE PAIN-- HAS STOPPED!
PAIN IS FOR WEAKER MEN--
--FOR MEN LIKE BRUCE BANNER--
--NOT FOR THE HULK!!
SO, A LARGER CREATURE HAS TAKEN THE PLACE OF A SMALLER ONE!
THE UNDYING ONES WERE NOT QUITE SO FOOLISH AS I IMAGINED!
AND YET--HE TOO SHALL DIE--LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!
THE HULK IS NOT LIKE ANY OTHERS!

HULK IS ONLY LIKE HIMSELF!
AND THERE IS NONE LIKE HIM!!


A FAR MIGHTIER BLOW THAN I HAVE BEEN DEALT IN MANY AN AGE, OUTWORLDER!
BUT THIS IS MY WORLD--
--AND NO ONE SHALL WREST IT FROM ME BY FORCE OF ARMS!
HULK DOESN'T WANT YOUR WORLD--
--JUST WANTS TO GET BACK TO HIS OWN WORLD!

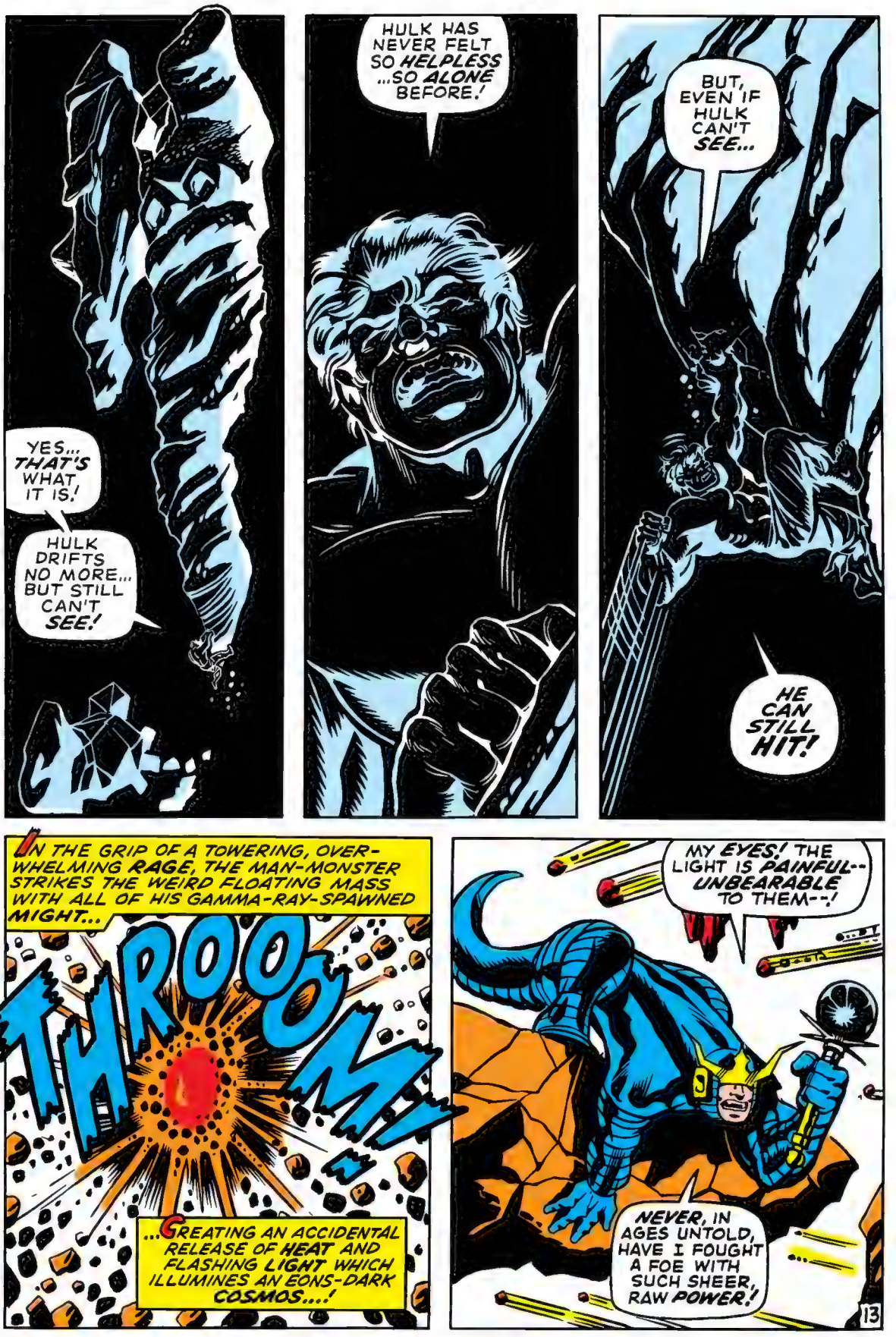

SHOW HULK THE WAY BACK-- BACK TO WHERE HE CAME FROM--
--AND HULK WILL TAKE THE GIRL AND GO!
WHETHER YOU SPEAK TRUTH, OR WHETHER YOU LIE--IT MATTERS NOT TO THE NIGHT-CRAWLER!

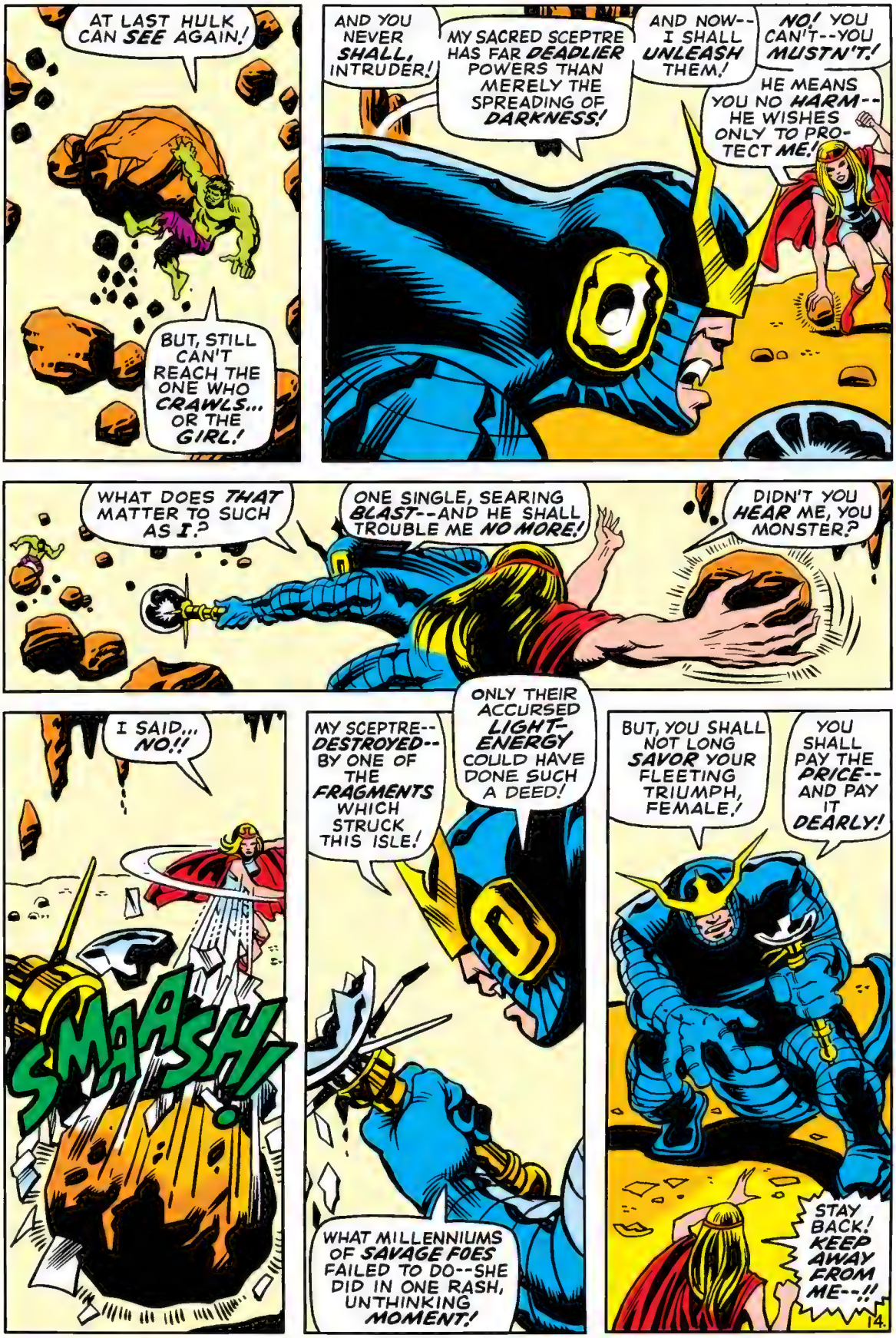

YOU HAVE CROSSED THE FORBIDDEN BORDER--AND YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE!
BUT FIRST, YOU MUST BOTH WRITHE HELPLESS IN THE GRIP OF THE SCEPTRE OF SHADOW--

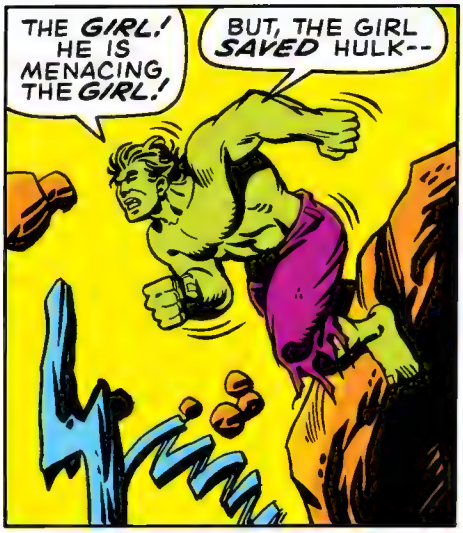

--A SHADOW FROM WHICH ONLY DEATH MAY RELEASE YOU!!

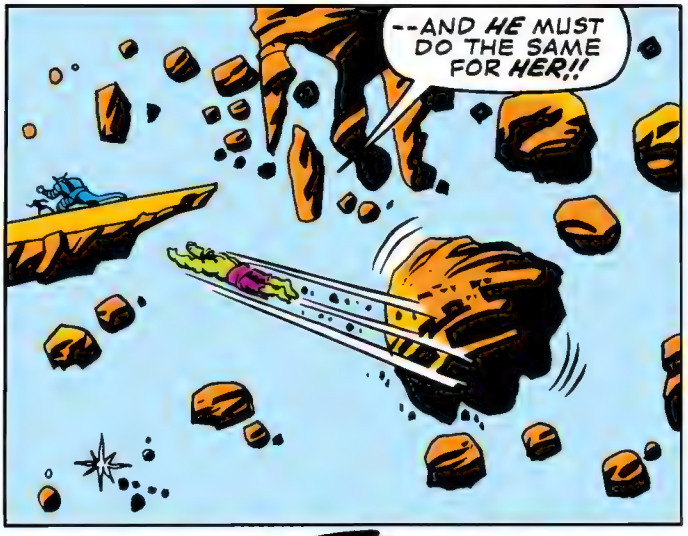
HULK IS BLIND-- CAN'T SEE--!
YOU MUST FIGHT BACK, HULK!
IF YOU DON'T--HE'LL KILL US BOTH!

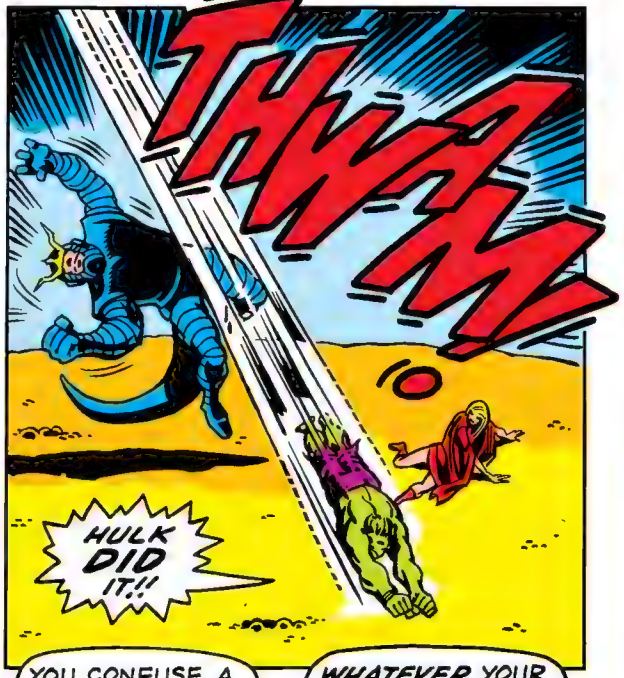
YES--FIGHT BACK--MUST FIGHT BACK!
BUT HOW--AGAINST AN ENEMY HULK CAN'T SEE--?
PERHAPS THE SOUND OF MY VOICE CAN HELP YOU, LOWLY ONE!
MONSTER IS BEHIND HULK--MOCKING HIM!
IF ONLY HULK COULD SEE--COULD TOUCH--!
IN A MOMENT, INTRUDER, YOU SHALL TOUCH NOTHING AT ALL--
AND THEN, YOU SHALL BE EVEN MORE HELPLESS THAN NOW!
UNNHH!
HE PUSHED HULK! HULK IS FALLING!!
NO--NOT FALLING--JUST DRIFTING, LIKE A FEATHER IN THE WIND!
AND SO YOU SHALL DRIFT, YOUR VAUNTED STRENGTH OF NO USE TO YOU--
--TILL THE END OF ETERNITY ITSELF!
STILL CAN'T SEE! HULK HAS NEVER BEEN--SO HELPLESS BEFORE!
IF HULK COULD JUST TOUCH SOMETHING--ANYTHING--!
WAIT! HAND BRUSHED AGAINST SOMETHING--FOR A SECOND!
MUST BE--ONE OF THE ISLANDS THAT FLOAT IN THIS AIR-THAT-IS-NOT-AIR!
12


YES... THAT'S WHAT IT IS!
HULK DRIFTS NO MORE... BUT STILL CAN'T SEE!
HULK HAS NEVER FELT SO HELPLESS ...SO ALONE BEFORE!
BUT, EVEN IF HULK CAN'T SEE...
HE CAN STILL HIT!
IN THE GRIP OF A TOWERING, OVER-WHELMING RAGE, THE MAN-MONSTER STRIKES THE WEIRD FLOATING MASS WITH ALL OF HIS GAMMA-RAY-SPAWNED MIGHT...
THROOM!
...CREATING AN ACCIDENTAL RELEASE OF HEAT AND FLASHING LIGHT WHICH ILLUMINES AN EONS-DARK COSMOS....!
MY EYES! THE LIGHT IS PAINFUL-- UNBEARABLE TO THEM--!
NEVER, IN AGES UNTOLD, HAVE I FOUGHT A FOE WITH SUCH SHEER, RAW POWER!
13

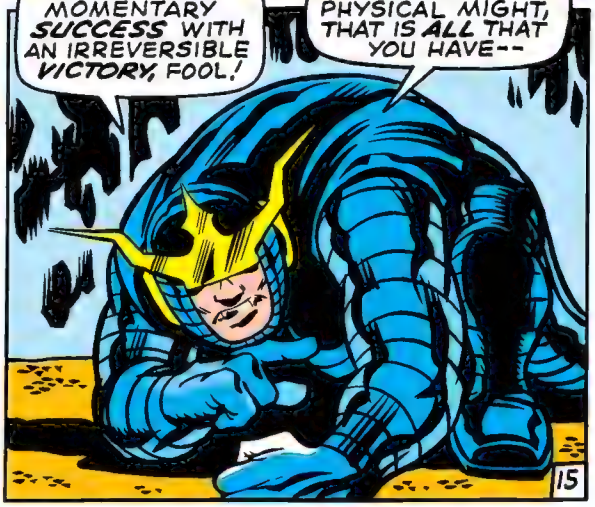

AT LAST HULK CAN SEE AGAIN!
BUT, STILL CAN'T REACH THE ONE WHO CRAWLS... OR THE GIRL!
AND YOU NEVER SHALL, INTRUDER!
MY SACRED SCEPTRE HAS FAR DEADLIER POWERS THAN MERELY THE SPREADING OF DARKNESS!
AND NOW-- I SHALL UNLEASH THEM!
NO! YOU CAN'T--YOU MUSTN'T!
HE MEANS YOU NO HARM-- HE WISHES ONLY TO PROTECT ME!
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER TO SUCH AS I?
ONE SINGLE, SEARING BLAST--AND HE SHALL TROUBLE ME NO MORE!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, YOU MONSTER?
I SAID... NO!!
SMASH!
MY SCEPTRE-- DESTROYED-- BY ONE OF THE FRAGMENTS WHICH STRUCK THIS ISLE!
ONLY THEIR ACCURSED LIGHT-ENERGY COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A DEED!
WHAT MILLENNIUMS OF SAVAGE FOES FAILED TO DO--SHE DID IN ONE RASH, UNTHINKING MOMENT!
BUT, YOU SHALL NOT LONG SAVOR YOUR FLEETING TRIUMPH, FEMALE!
YOU SHALL PAY THE PRICE-- AND PAY IT DEARLY!
STAY BACK! KEEP AWAY FROM ME--!!
14.


THE GIRL! HE IS MENACING THE GIRL!
BUT, THE GIRL SAVED HULK--

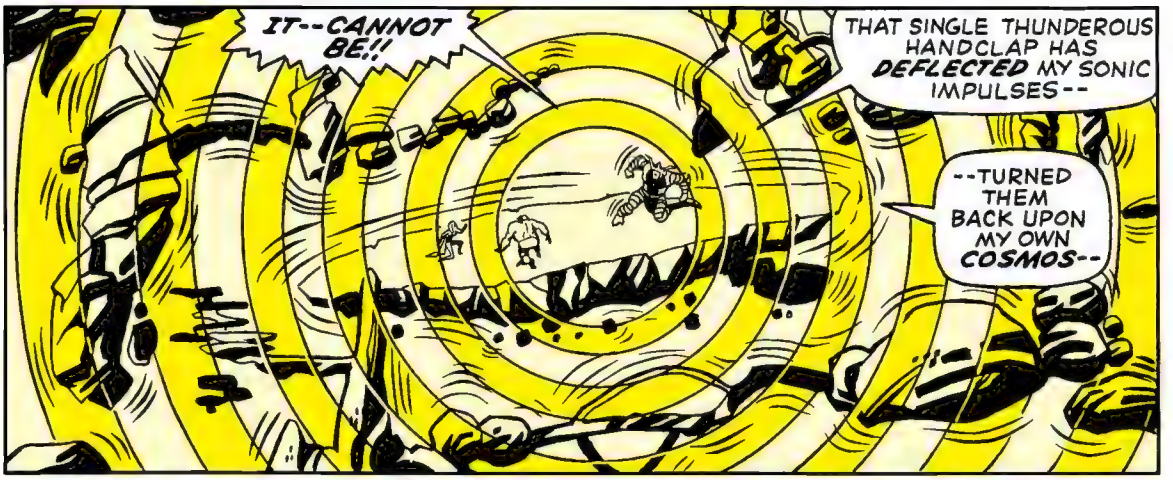

--AND HE MUST DO THE SAME FOR HER!!

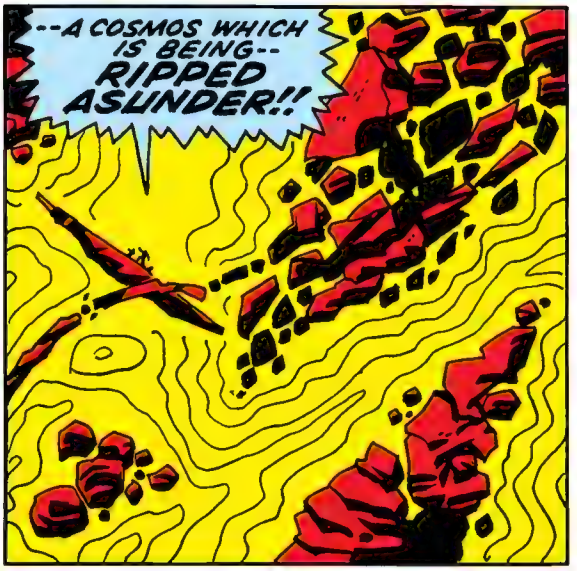

THWAM!
HULK DID IT!!

HULK SAVED THE GIRL!
KRAAK!


YOU CONFUSE A MOMENTARY SUCCESS WITH AN IRREVERSIBLE VICTORY, FOOL!
WHATEVER YOUR PHYSICAL MIGHT, THAT IS ALL THAT YOU HAVE--

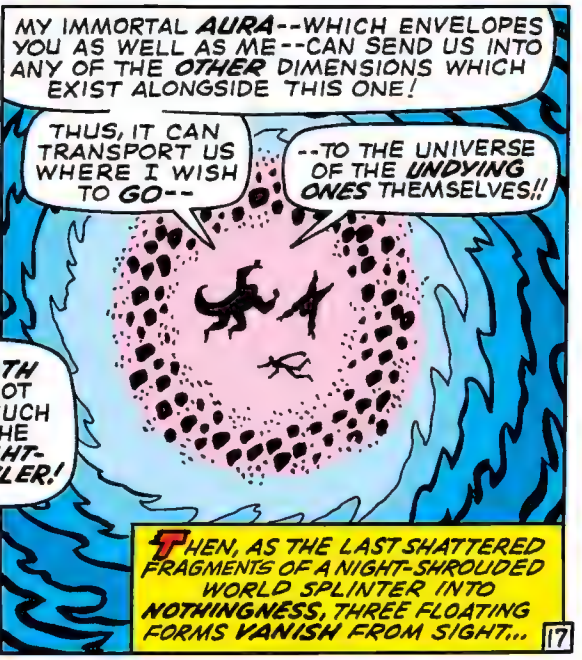
--WHILE THE NIGHT-CRAWLER HAS MUCH, MUCH MORE!
THEN, FROM THE STRANGE AND SINISTER CROWN WHICH MASKS HIS BROW, THE DARK-BORN DEMON EMITS SONIC BEAMS OF INDESCRIBABLE FORCE--
REEEEEOOOO
--WHICH BOMBARD THE GREEN GOLIATH WITH STAGGERING INTENSITY!
YOU WILL NOT STAND LONG BEFORE ME, INVADER!
NEVER AGAIN SHALL YOU ACT AS THE POWERFUL PAWN OF MY IMMORTAL FOES!
OOOOOOEEE
CAN'T STAND-- MUCH MORE SOUND--!
BUT--HULK IS NO MAN'S PAWN!
EEEEEEEE
NO MAN'S!!
EEEOOOO
DO YOU HEAR??
KLAP!!
16


IT--CANNOT BE!!
THAT SINGLE THUNDEROUS HANDCLAP HAS DEFLECTED MY SONIC IMPULSES--
--TURNED THEM BACK UPON MY OWN COSMOS--

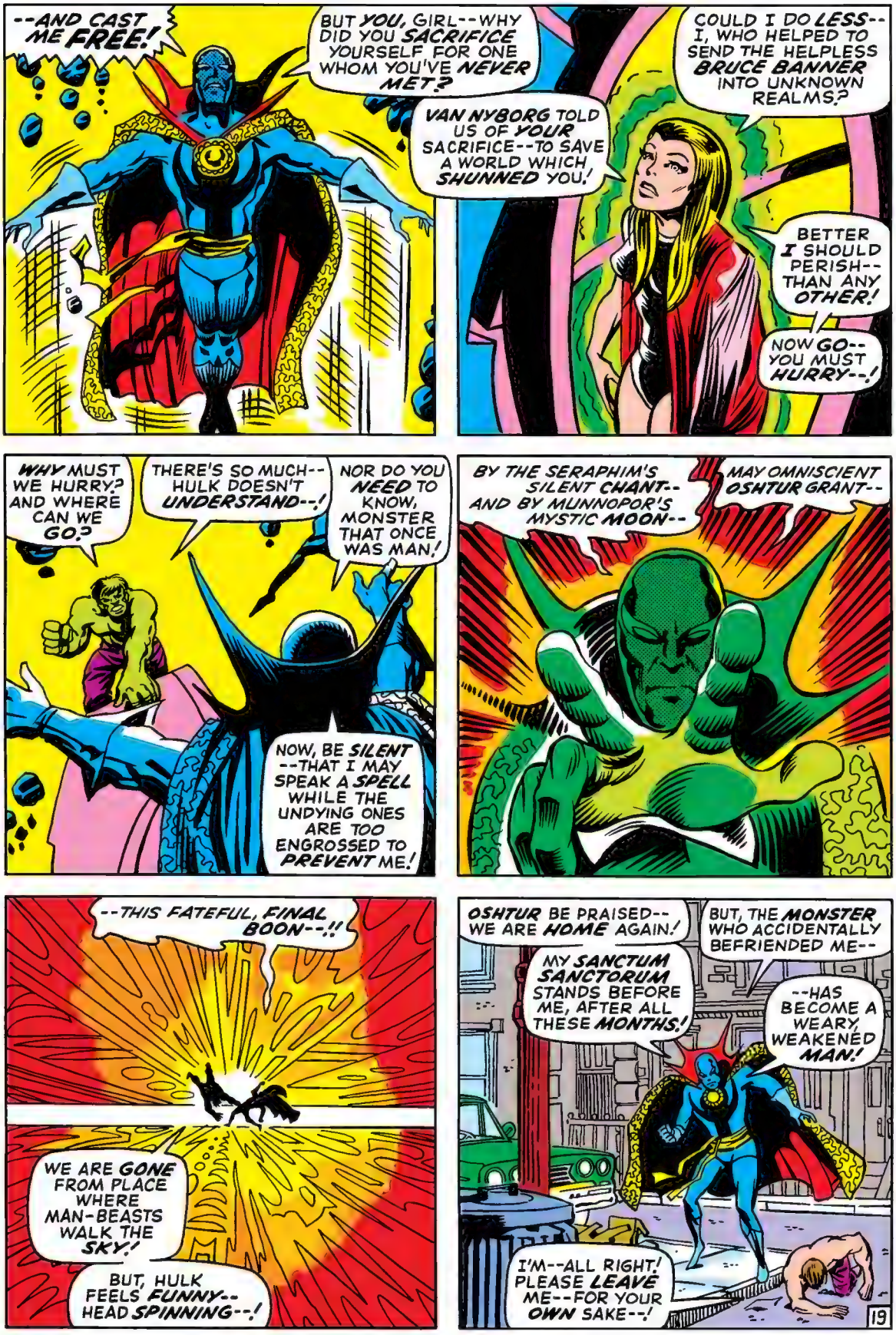

--A COSMOS WHICH IS BEING-- RIPPED ASUNDER!!

HULK DID NOT KNOW--HIS OWN STRENGTH!
ONLY THIS ONE PLACE REMAINS--THE ONE WE'RE STANDING ON--!
KE E- RAAAAK
AND IT'S GOING TOO, HULK! IT'S--

--FALLING APART!
WE'RE DOOMED-- DOOMED!!
SILENCE, FOOLISH FEMALE!
DEATH IS NOT FOR SUCH AS THE NIGHT-CRAWLER!


MY IMMORTAL AURA--WHICH ENVELOPES YOU AS WELL AS ME--CAN SEND US INTO ANY OF THE OTHER DIMENSIONS WHICH EXIST ALONGSIDE THIS ONE!
THUS, IT CAN TRANSPORT US WHERE I WISH TO GO--
--TO THE UNIVERSE OF THE UNDYING ONES THEMSELVES!!
THEN, AS THE LAST SHATTERED FRAGMENTS OF A NIGHT-SHROUDED WORLD SPLINTER INTO NOTHINGNESS, THREE FLOATING FORMS VANISH FROM SIGHT...

...ONLY TO REAPPEAR IN ANOTHER, EVEN MORE SAVAGE SPHERE...
...NEAR THE SILENT, UNMOVING FIGURE OF DR. STRANGE...!
BEHOLD, MY BROTHER--ITIS THE DARK-SPAWNED NIGHT-CRAWLER!
IF HE FREES THE MORTAL--IF THE CAPTIVE SORCERER ESCAPES US--
WE SHALL BE TRAPPED IN THIS BARREN WORLD--FOR YET ANOTHER MILLENNIUM!
THEN, YOUR UNHOLY EXILE IS ASSURED, YOU WHO ARE CALLED THE NAMELESS ONE!
FOR, IT WAS YOU WHO CAUSED THE GREEN-SKINNED ONE TO DESTROY MY DOMAIN!
AND, IF THE NIGHT-CRAWLER'S COSMOS IS NO MORE--
HE SHALL HAVE YOURS--
--THOUGH HE MUST DO BATTLE WITH ALL YOUR GHASTLY HORDES BEFORE HE MAY CALL IT HIS!
WHAT I PRAYED FOR--HAS COME TO PASS!
BY THE TIME THE BATTLE IS DONE, THE STARS WILL BE WRONG--AND THE EARTH BE SPARED AT LEAST CENTURIES LONGER!
THUS, DR. STRANGE CAN DIE HAPPY, HERE WITHIN POLES OF ETHEREAL FORCE!
YOU WANT OUT, WEIRD ONE? HULK CAN FREE YOU--!
NO, HULK--EVEN YOUR BATTERING FISTS WOULD BE USELESS AGAINST THE MYSTIC POLES!
HE CAN ONLY BE FREE--IF SOMEONE TAKES HIS PLACE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? KEEP BACK--!
TOO LATE! ALREADY, I FEEL THE POLES BEGIN TO GRASP YOU--
18


--AND CAST ME FREE!
BUT YOU, GIRL--WHY DID YOU SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR ONE WHOM YOU'VE NEVER MET?
VAN NYBORG TOLD US OF YOUR SACRIFICE--TO SAVE A WORLD WHICH SHUNNED YOU!
COULD I DO LESS--I, WHO HELPED TO SEND THE HELPLESS BRUCE BANNER INTO UNKNOWN REALMS?
BETTER I SHOULD PERISH--THAN ANY OTHER!
NOW GO--YOU MUST HURRY--!
WHY MUST WE HURRY? AND WHERE CAN WE GO?
THERE'S SO MUCH--HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND--!
NOR DO YOU NEED TO KNOW, MONSTER THAT ONCE WAS MAN!
NOW, BE SILENT --THAT I MAY SPEAK A SPELL WHILE THE UNDYING ONES ARE TOO ENGROSSED TO PREVENT ME!
BY THE SERAPHIM'S SILENT CHANT--AND BY MUNNOPOR'S MYSTIC MOON--
MAY OMNISCIENT OSHTUR GRANT--
--THIS FATEFUL, FINAL BOON--!!
WE ARE GONE FROM PLACE WHERE MAN-BEASTS WALK THE SKY!
BUT, HULK FEELS FUNNY--HEAD SPINNING--!
OSHTUR BE PRAISED--WE ARE HOME AGAIN!
MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM STANDS BEFORE ME, AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS!
BUT, THE MONSTER WHO ACCIDENTALLY BEFRIENDED ME--
--HAS BECOME A WEARY, WEAKENED MAN!
I'M--ALL RIGHT! PLEASE LEAVE ME--FOR YOUR OWN SAKE--!

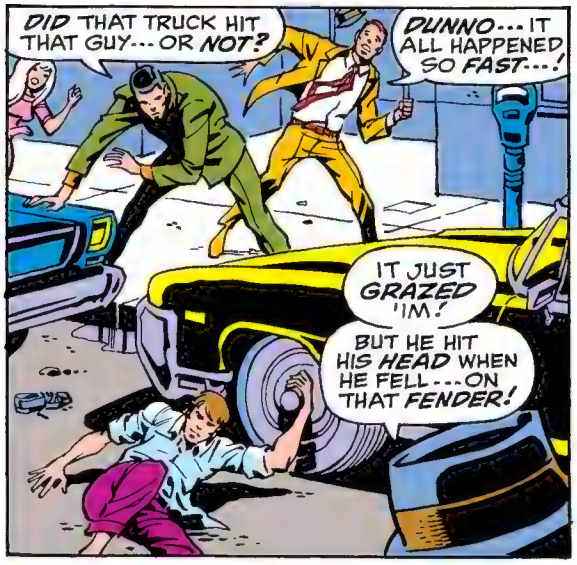
AN UNCOMPREHENDING WORLD HAS CALLED DR. STRANGE MANY THINGS, BRUCE BANNER!
YET, IT HAS NEVER SAID THAT HE ABANDONED A FRIEND--
--OR THAT HE FEARED TO HELP A FELLOW HUMAN IN NEED!
...THESE OLD CLOTHES OF MINE WILL MAKE BOTH OF US FEEL LIKE NORMAL BEINGS AGAIN!
THEN, WHEN YOUR DIZZINESS PASSES, WE'LL BOTH BE LEAVING!
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT--IN A MOMENT!
BUT, YOU SPOKE OF LEAVING! ISN'T THIS--YOUR HOME?
IT HAS BEEN, FOR LONG YEARS...
STILL, THERE COMES A TIME TO PUT ASIDE THE TRAPPINGS OF A FORMER LIFE--
--AND WALK AMONG MEN--AS A MAN!
WITH THE UNDYING ONES LOCKED OUT OF OUR COSMOS FOR MANY LIFETIMES--
PERHAPS DOCTOR STRANGE IS NO LONGER NEEDED!
PERHAPS THE WORLD IS READY FOR PLAIN, ORDINARY STEPHEN STRANGE AGAIN--
--A FORMER SURGEON, WHO CAN STILL BE USEFUL AS A MEDICAL CONSULTANT!
I'M--SURE THAT IT IS, FRIEND!
AND THANK YOU AGAIN--FOR EVERYTHING!
AND SO, MOMENTS LATER, TWO MOST UNIQUE MORTALS DEPART--PERHAPS NEVERMORE TO MEET THIS SIDE OF THE GRAVE--!
I CAN SENSE THAT STEPHEN STRANGE HAS KNOWN TORMENT--AND THE SCORN OF THE MASSES!
BUT WHAT WOULDN'T BRUCE BANNER GIVE TO STAND IN HIS SHOES--AND BE ABLE TO WALK AWAY FROM IT ALL--
--TO BE RID FOREVER OF THE CREATURE THAT MEN CALL--THE HULK!!
~FIN~
20

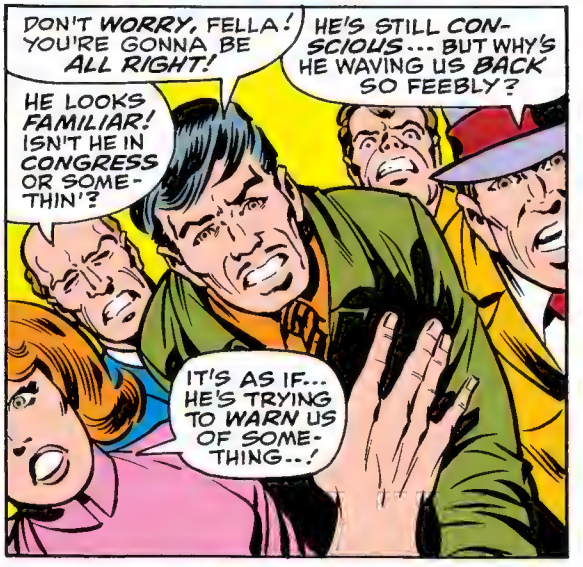
INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
127
MAY
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
YOU THINK YOU'RE STRONG, HULK? TAKE A LOOK AT... MOGOL!
FEATURING:
NOT ONE... NOT TWO... BUT THREE OF MARVEL'S MOST SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS!!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK! TM
MOGOL!
FLAT BROKE... HUNTED BY THE ARMY... AND WEARING BORROWED LEVIS... THAT'S WHAT I CALL STARTING AT THE BOTTOM, BANNER!
BUT, THINGS HAVE GOT TO GET BETTER... 'CAUSE THERE'S NO WAY TO GO BUT UP!
HEY, YA DUMB JAY-WALKIN' JERK!
GET BACK ON THE CURB! YA THINK THIS RIG O'MINE STOPS ON A CRUMMY DIME??
ROOM
A NEW MARVEL MILESTONE BY:
STAN LEE • ROY THOMAS • HERB TRIMPE
EDITOR WRITER ARTIST
SAM ROSEN, LETTERER

SOMEBODY'S CALLING ME! WHAT...?
GOOD LORD... NO!
NO RIGHT TURN

SKREEEETCH


DID THAT TRUCK HIT THAT GUY... OR NOT?
DUNNO... IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST...!
IT JUST GRAZED 'IM!
BUT HE HIT HIS HEAD WHEN HE FELL... ON THAT FENDER!


DON'T WORRY, FELLA! YOU'RE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!
HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS... BUT WHY'S HE WAVING US BACK SO FEEBLY?
HE LOOKS FAMILIAR! ISN'T HE IN CONGRESS OR SOMETHIN'?
IT'S AS IF... HE'S TRYING TO WARN US OF SOMETHING...!

DON'T BE FUNNY, LADY! WHAT WOULD HE BE TRYIN' TO WARN US AB...
WAIT! LOOK... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO HIM!

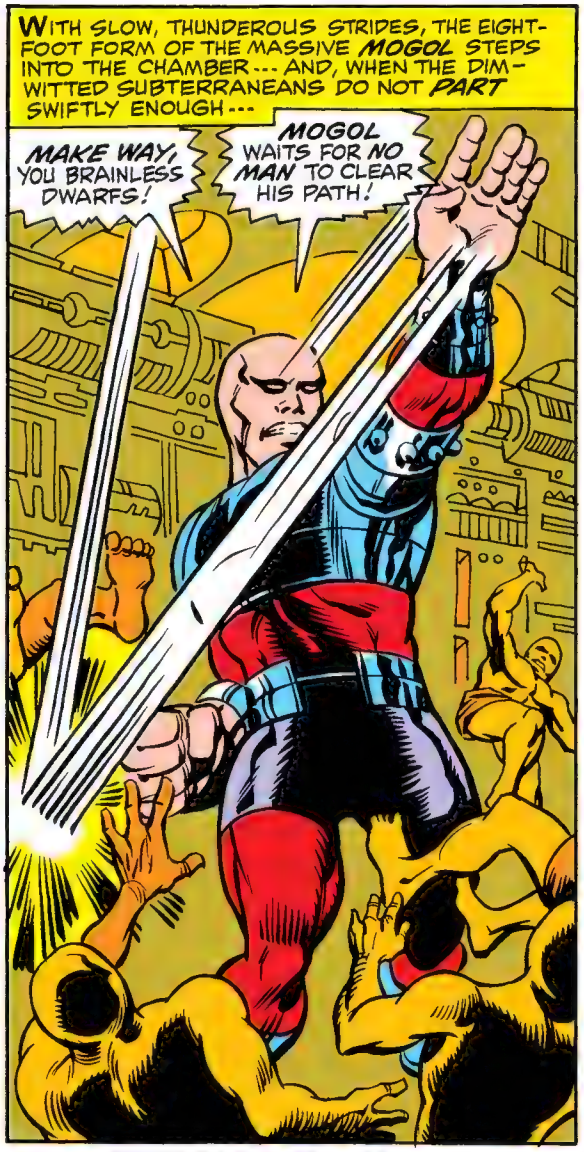
HE'S CHANGING... GROWING... TURNING GREEN... RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!
THAT CAN ONLY MEAN... ONE THING...!
DON'T MENTION... THE ONE THEY CALL THE THING...

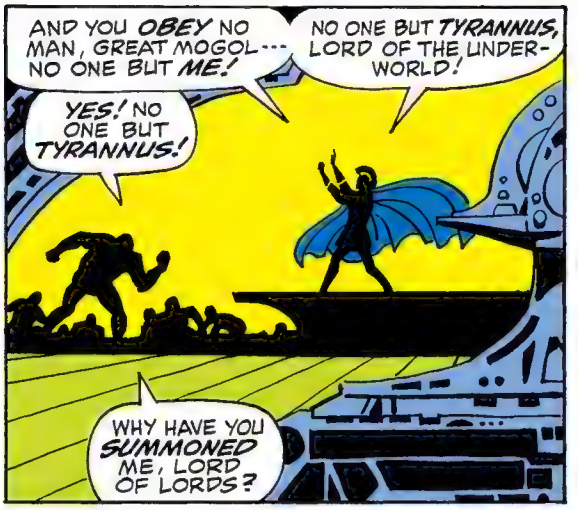
... WHEN YOU'RE TALKING TO... THE HULK!
2

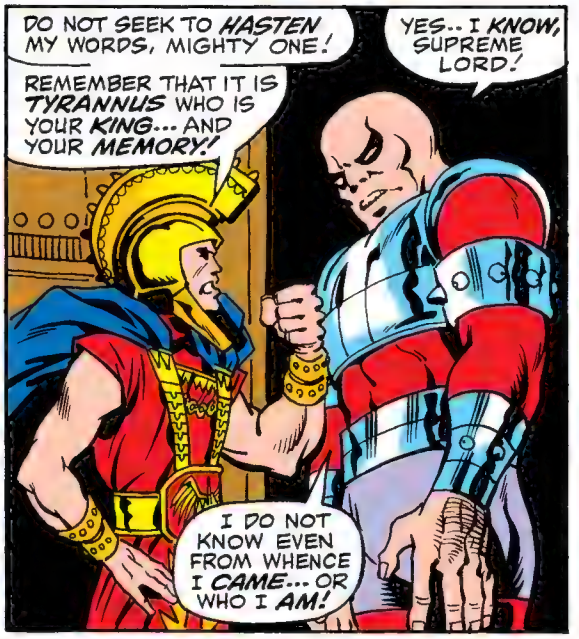
AGAIN THEY RUN! ALWAYS THEY RUN!
HULK KNOWS WHEN NO ONE WANTS HIM!
FRAK!
WELL, LET THEM RUN! HULK DOESN'T NEED THEM--- ANY OF THEM!
THEY ARE TOO WEAK... TOO SCARED TO BE FRIENDS TO HULK!
GANGWAY, MISTER! THAT'S THE LAST TIME I'M PLAYIN' GOOD SAMARITAN!
BUT... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? I FEEL--- WEIRD--!
SO DO I---AS IF---
THOSE TWO MEN--- FADING AWAY! BUT WHY? HULK DID NOTHING--!
THEY VANISHED, HARRY--- JUST PLAIN DIS-APPEARED!
THE HULK DID IT, SOME-HOW--- HE HAD TO!
POLICE
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT AFTER WE CATCH HIM, MIKE!
THE BLUE COATS! HULK KNEW THEY WOULDN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE FOR LONG!
BUT, HULK HAS WEAPON NOW---THIS POST...
ONE WAY
---AND THAT IS ALL THE WEAPON THE HULK NEEDS!
OKAY, GREEN-SKIN ---YOU'RE FORCING US TO---TO--
HUH??
THE BLUE-COATS ARE GONE--- JUST LIKE THE OTHER PUNY HUMANS!
SOMEONE IS DOING THIS--- MAKING MEN VANISH--- SO THEY CAN'T SHOOT AT HULK!
WHOEVER HE IS--- HE MUST BE HULK'S FRIEND..HULK'S ONLY FRIEND..!
3.

YET, EVEN AS THE SAVAGE, SLOW-THINKING HULK SNARLS OUT THESE HALF-REASONED SYLLABLES--- A HARSH, GRATING LAUGH BREAKS THE SILENCE OF AN OMINOUS TABLEAU MANY MILES BENEATH THE GREEN GOLIATH'S VERY FEET, IN THE SINISTER, SUNLESS WORLD OF... TYRANNUS!!
HAH!
MY GENIUS IS ABOUT TO SNATCH VICTORY FROM THE GAPING JAWS OF DEFEAT!
THOUGH MY TELEPORT-BEAM HAS NOT SUFFICIENT ACCURACY TO STRIKE THE GREAT-MUSCLED TARGET I SEEK---
AND THOUGH IT HAS TRANSPORTED USELESS HUMANS TO MY UNDERGROUND DOMAIN INSTEAD---
THE HULK'S OWN WORDS SHALL LIGHT ME THE WAY TO SUCCESS!!
4

LISTEN, MY NEARLY MINDLESS SUBJECTS... AND SEE IF YOU CAN COMPREHEND THE WORDS OF YOUR MOST SUBLIME RULER!
THE HULK HAS EVER STOOD ALONE... AND YET FELT THE NEED OF FRIENDSHIP!
AND NOW, THAT NEED SHALL BETRAY HIM INTO MY HANDS!
BUT WHO, YOU WOULD ASK IF YOU HAD WITS ENOUGH, CAN STAND SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE HULK?
WHO BUT THE MIGHTIEST OF TYRRANUS' OWN IMPERIAL WARRIORS?
WHO BUT... MOGOL?
BLIK!
HE IS COMING!
ZZZ-KLAKK!
MOGOL IS COMING!
MOGOL! AT THE SOUND OF THAT NAME, EVEN THE DULL BRAINS OF TYRANNUS' PALLID SUBJECTS SEEM TO REEL IN FEAR... AND THEN...
NO, YOU PUNY FLEAS!
MOGOL...
...IS...
...HERE!!
5


WITH SLOW, THUNDEROUS STRIDES, THE EIGHT-FOOT FORM OF THE MASSIVE MOGOL STEPS INTO THE CHAMBER--- AND, WHEN THE DIM-WITTED SUBTERRANEANS DO NOT PART SWIFTLY ENOUGH---
MAKE WAY, YOU BRAINLESS DWARFS!
MOGOL WAITS FOR NO MAN TO CLEAR HIS PATH!

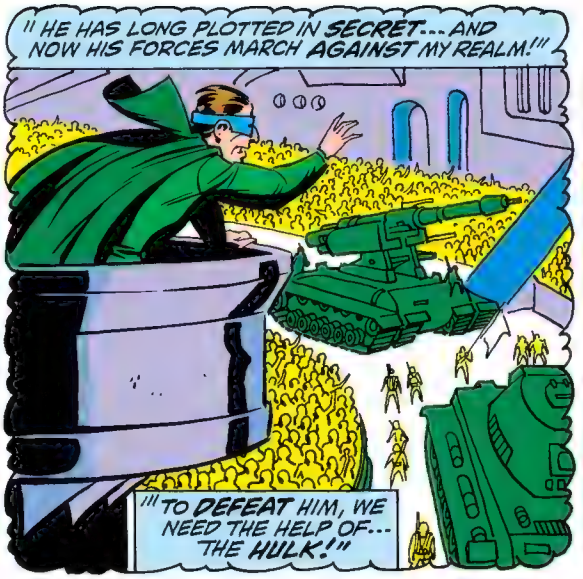

AND YOU OBEY NO MAN, GREAT MOGOL--- NO ONE BUT ME!
NO ONE BUT TYRANNUS, LORD OF THE UNDER-WORLD!
YES! NO ONE BUT TYRANNUS!
WHY HAVE YOU SUMMONED ME, LORD OF LORDS?


DO NOT SEEK TO HASTEN MY WORDS, MIGHTY ONE!
YES.. I KNOW, SUPREME LORD!
REMEMBER THAT IT IS TYRANNUS WHO IS YOUR KING... AND YOUR MEMORY!
I DO NOT KNOW EVEN FROM WHENCE I CAME... OR WHO I AM!

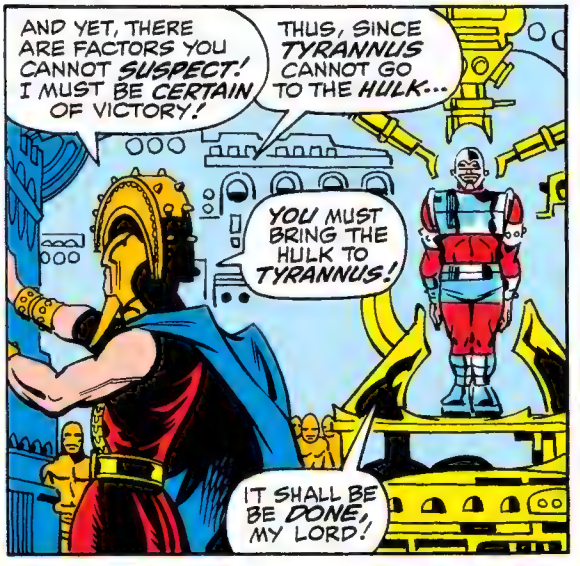
BUT, THAT MATTERS NOTHING--- FOR I AM MOGOL, AND I EXIST TO SERVE TYRANNUS!
WELL SAID, FAITHFUL ONE!
AND NOW, I SHALL TELL YOU HOW YOU MAY SERVE ME BEST!

YOU ARE POWERFUL BEYOND WORDS... BUT I NEED ANOTHER SUCH AS YOU TO DEFEAT THE MOLE MAN!
THE MOLE MAN?
THEN--- YOUR ARCH-ENEMY HAS RETURNED?
AY, MOGOL..!

"...ONCE MORE, THAT MALIGNANT MOST UNWORTHY FOE HAS CAPTURED THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH* WHICH ALONE CAN KEEP ME YOUNG--AND ALIVE..!"
*REMEMBER IT FROM TALES TO ASTONISH #80? --STAN.


"HE HAS LONG PLOTTED IN SECRET... AND NOW HIS FORCES MARCH AGAINST MY REALM!"
"TO DEFEAT HIM, WE NEED THE HELP OF... THE HULK!"

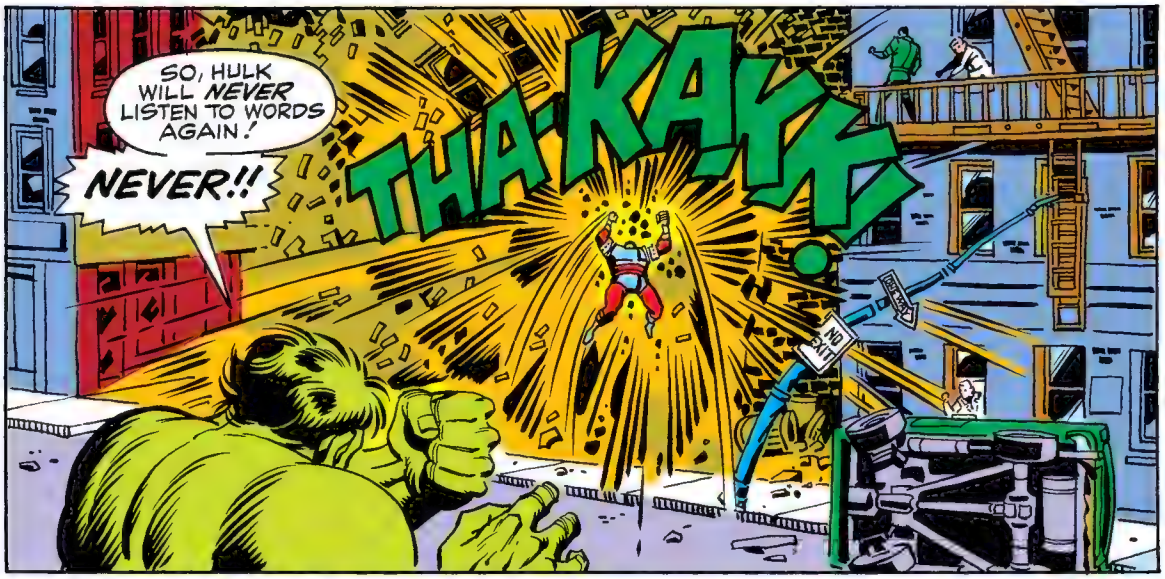
THEN YOU SHALL HAVE HIM, O TYRANNUS!
STILL, YOU HAVE SAID THAT MOGOL IS THE MIGHTIEST OF YOUR WARRIORS!
CAN I NOT DESTROY ALL YOUR ENEMIES... THAT YOU HAVE NEED OF THIS HULK?
PERHAPS, GREAT ONE...


AND YET, THERE ARE FACTORS YOU CANNOT SUSPECT! I MUST BE CERTAIN OF VICTORY!
THUS, SINCE TYRANNUS CANNOT GO TO THE HULK...
YOU MUST BRING THE HULK TO TYRANNUS!
IT SHALL BE BE DONE, MY LORD!

...THE PUNY HUMANS ALL RUN... LEAVE HULK ALONE!
HULK HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO BE ALONE ...BUT NOW HE FEELS... STRANGE..!

IT'S LONELINESS YOU FEEL, HULK... BUT YOU NEED FEEL IT NO LONGER!
WHAT? WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

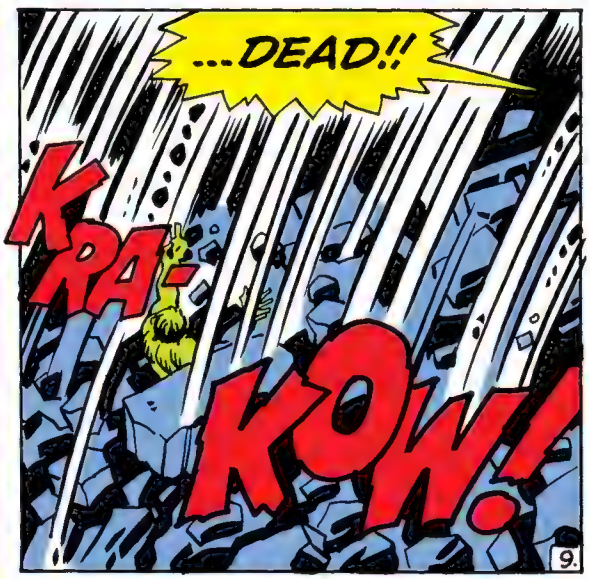
I AM MOGOL! I SERVE TYRANNUS, LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD---AND I HAVE COME TO OFFER YOU OUR FRIENDSHIP!
TYRANNUS? HULK KNOWS THAT NAME---FROM SOMEWHERE!
AND WHAT HE KNOWS--- HE DOES NOT LIKE!
TYRANNUS WAS BAD...TRIED TO HURT HULK! AND, IF YOU SERVE HIM---
NO, FOOL! I COME IN PEACE TO...
...TO TRICK HULK!
THAT IS WHY YOU ARE HERE! THE HULK KNOWS!
SHROOM!
HULK HAS BEEN TRICKED TOO MANY TIMES!
BUT, HULK WON'T GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO TRICK HIM!
WHAT? YOU CAN STILL STAND --- AFTER HULK HIT YOU?
I CAME TO OFFER THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP, YOU BRAINLESS BRUTE!
BUT, IF YOU REJECT THAT HAND--- IF YOU SPURN MOGOL'S OFFER---
SWOK!
WORDS! HULK IS SICK OF WORDS!
THEY ARE ALWAYS USED TO STALL HULK--- TILL THE SOLDIERS COME-- OR THE GUNS ROAR!


SO, HULK WILL NEVER LISTEN TO WORDS AGAIN!
NEVER!!
THA-KAK!
NO EXIT

YOU HAVE JUST UTTERED YOUR OWN EPITAPH, GREEN-SKINNED ONE!
TYRANNUS ORDERED ME TO BRING YOU TO HIM... ALIVE, AND OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL!

BUT, IF YOU WILL NOT COME OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL... AND ALIVE...

THEN I AM SURE HE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE YOU...

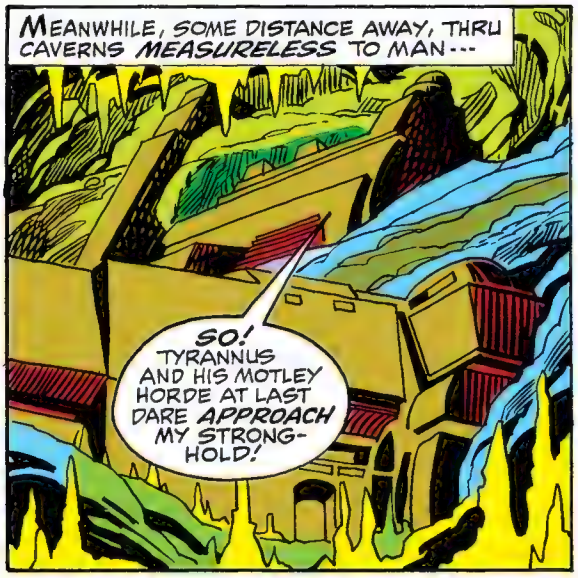

...DEAD!!
KRA-
KOW!

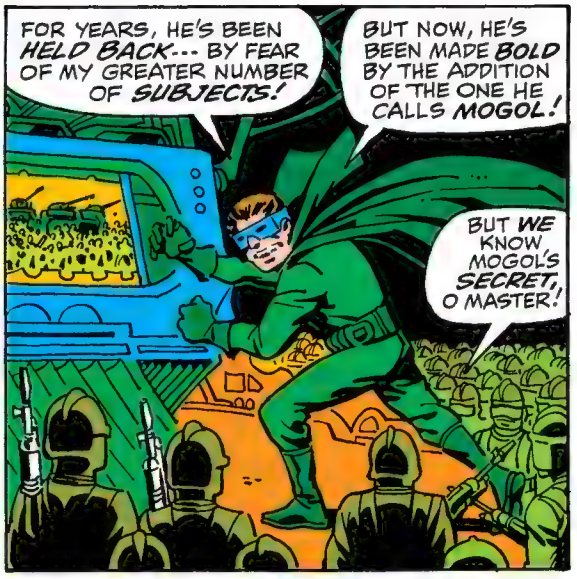
THE AWESOME, SHUDDERING IMPACT OF MORTAR AND STONE CAUSES THE VERY STREET TO CAVE IN --- AND TWO ASTONISHED TITANS TO PLUMMET AFTER THE CONCRETE DEBRIS ---!
NOW I SEE WHY TYRANNUS FEELS HE HAS NEED OF YOU!
BUT HULK DOESN'T NEED HIM!
HAH! TO SURVIVE MY ATTACK, YOU MUST BE NEAR MOGUL HIMSELF IN POWER!
AND, WHICH ONE OF US IS STRONGER --- WE'LL FIND THAT OUT---
GOOD LORD--- NO!
IT'S---THE HULK--- AND SOME OTHER MONSTER---RIGHT ON THE TRACKS!
GOT TO STOP THIS THING--- BEFORE I RUN SMACK INTO THEM--!!
---WHEN THAT TRAIN HITS US BOTH---AND WE SEE WHICH ONE STILL LIVES!
SCHEECH
TEST IS NO GOOD--- BECAUSE TRAIN WAS ABLE TO STOP IN TIME!
BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO USE IT FOR A TEST--!
HALT! THERE IS NO USE IN CONTINUING OUR FIGHT---BY ANY MEANS!
10.

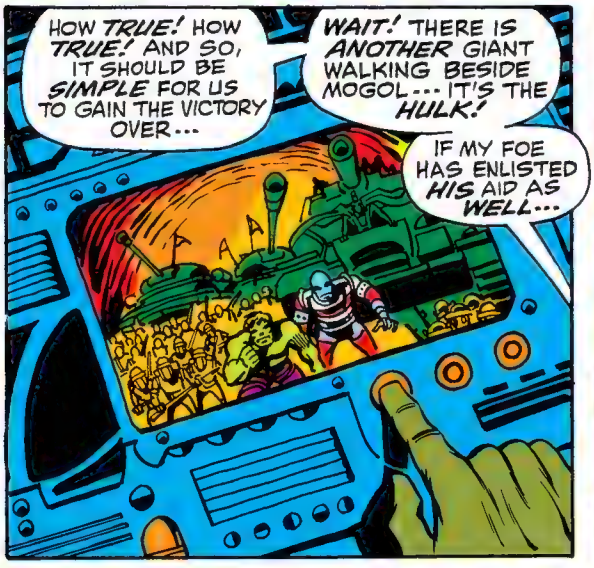
BUT THERE IS, MAN IN ARMOR!
HULK WANTS TO SEE IF YOU WILL LIVE THRU CRASH--- LIKE THE ONE WHEN YOU DROPPED HOUSE ON HULK!
IF ANOTHER BLOW IS TO BE STRUCK, SURFACE BEING---
IT IS MOGOL WHO WHO MUST STRIKE IT!!
WROP!
THAT PUNY TAP MEANT NOTHING TO THE HULK!
BUT IT WAS YOUR LAST BLOW, MOGOL ---HULK SWEARS IT!
YES, HULK---IT WAS MY FINAL BLOW!
FOR, NOW I SEE YOU ARE AT LEAST MY EQUAL IN POWER---
AND, FOR MY OWN REASONS---AS WELL AS THOSE OF TYRANNUS---
---I SHALL NOT REST UNTIL YOU ARE MY---
59
58
--FFRRIENNNND--!

DON'T YOU SEE, HULK, YOU CANNOT HARM MOGOL?
ZZR
AAK
BUT... WAIT! WHAT IS THIS THAT HOLDS ME..?
THIRD RAIL HOLDS YOU MIGHTY ONE!
NOW, HULK WILL SMASH!
YOUR BRUTE STRENGTH CANNOT HURT ME--- EVEN THOUGH I CANNOT MOVE!
BUT WHY SHOULD WE BE ENEMIES... AND NOT ALLIES?
NO! YOU TRY TO TRICK HULK---LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!
BUT--- IF YOU CAN'T HURT HULK--- MAYBE HE SHOULD TAKE CHANCE!
YES... HULK WILL TAKE CHANCE---HULK WILL BE YOUR FRIEND!
BUT NOW---HULK IS FADING--- AND SO IS MOGOL!
DON'T BE AFRAID, HULK! WE ARE GOING WHERE YOU WILL BE RESPECTED... NOT FEARED!
12
THUS, AT LAST, THRU THE AGENCY OF THE MASSIVE, MYSTERIOUS MOGOL, TYRANNUS' TELEPORT-BEAM AT LAST DOES ITS WORK---
...AND SOON, TWO OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS OF A PLANET ARE LABORING HARD YET WILLINGLY FOR THE STERN SOVEREIGN OF HALF AN UNDER-WORLD---
FASTER, YOU LUMBERING OAFS-- FASTER STILL!
DO YOU THINK THE UNCOUNTED SLAVES OF THE MOLEMAN DAWDLE ALL DAY AS YOU TWO DO?
DO NOT LET HIS HARSH MANNER ANGER YOU, MY FRIEND!
HULK IS ANGRY AT NOTHING--- NOT ANY LONGER!
HERE, HULK IS WANTED--- NEEDED!
HULK ASKS FOR NO MORE!
13

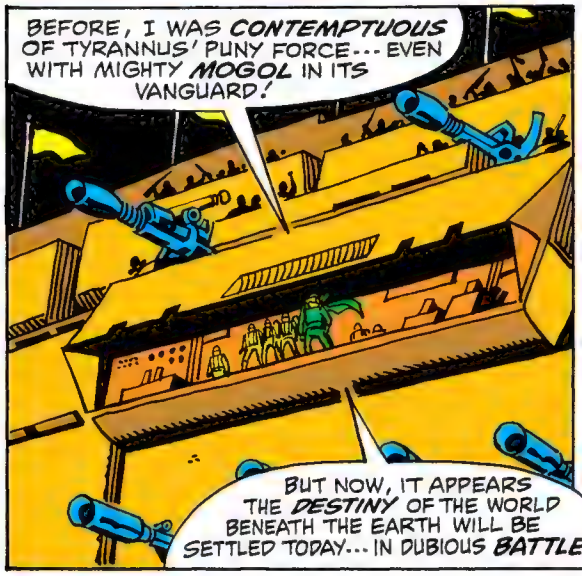
HERE, HULK, ARE THE FORTIFICATIONS WE MUST NEXT ERECT!
TYRANNUS WANTS THEM PLACED HERE ...AND HERE...!
SYMBOLS MEAN NOTHING TO HULK!
BUT, IF GOOD FRIEND MOGOL SAYS IT SHOULD BE DONE...
HULK WILL DO IT!
...HULK, WHEN MOGOL SOUGHT YOU OUT ON THE SURFACE, HE ACTED FOR TYRANNUS!
BUT I AM GLAD I DID SO... FOR MOGOL, TOO, HAS KNOWN THE STING OF LONELINESS IN THIS WORLD OF PYGMIES!
BUT NOT NOW, MOGOL! NOW WE BOTH HAVE A FRIEND!
AND SO A FORTRESS... AND A MECHANIZED ARMY... ARE BUILT IN THE SPACE OF MERE HOURS... WHILE THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF THE UNCANNY TELEPORT-BEAM KEEP THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH FROM REVERTING INTO BRUCE BANNER, AGAIN--!
THE LAST TANK... IS FINISHED!
EXCELLENT! THEN-- TYRANNUS COMMANDS YOU TO LEAD THE ARMORED ATTACK!
NO ONE TELLS HULK WHAT TO DO, TYRANNUS... NO ONE!
HULK STILL KNOWS YOU TRIED TO KILL HIM ONCE... SOMEWHERE, SOME TIME!
HE HELPS YOU BECAUSE MOGOL IS HIS FRIEND ...THAT IS ALL!
BUT THAT IS ENOUGH, HULK! AND NOW...
ONWARD... TO THE CITY OF THE MOLE MAN!!
14

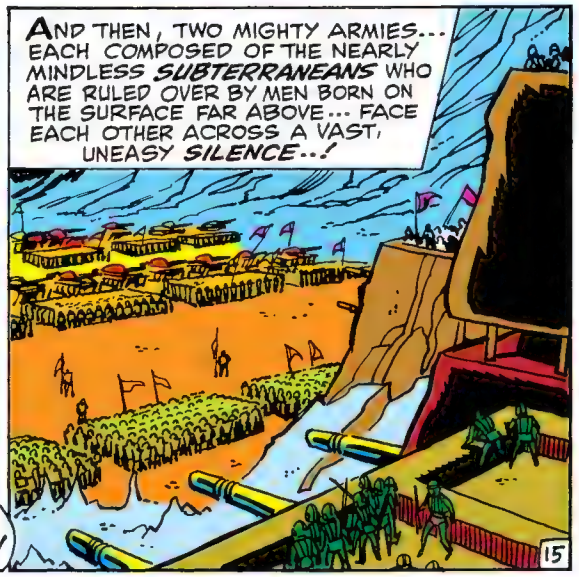

MEANWHILE, SOME DISTANCE AWAY, THRU CAVERNS MEASURELESS TO MAN---
SO! TYRANNUS AND HIS MOTLEY HORDE AT LAST DARE APPROACH MY STRONG-HOLD!

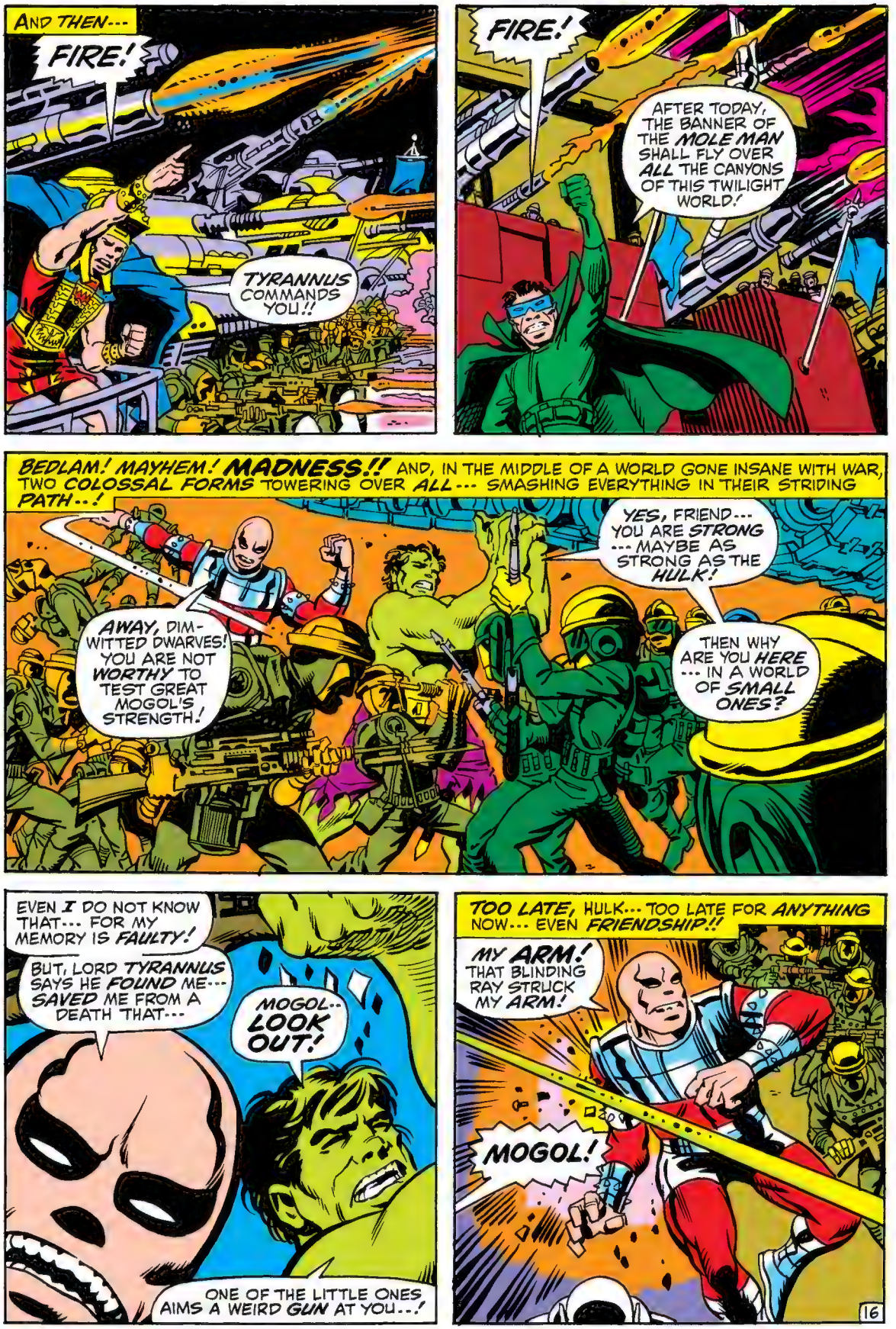

FOR YEARS, HE'S BEEN HELD BACK--- BY FEAR OF MY GREATER NUMBER OF SUBJECTS!
BUT NOW, HE'S BEEN MADE BOLD BY THE ADDITION OF THE ONE HE CALLS MOGOL!
BUT WE KNOW MOGOL'S SECRET, O MASTER!


HOW TRUE! HOW TRUE! AND SO, IT SHOULD BE SIMPLE FOR US TO GAIN THE VICTORY OVER---
WAIT! THERE IS ANOTHER GIANT WALKING BESIDE MOGOL--- IT'S THE HULK!
IF MY FOE HAS ENLISTED HIS AID AS WELL---

SOUND THE FULL ALERT! I WANT ALL TROOPS TO MAN THE NETHER WALL---ALL, DO YOU HEAR ME?
WE HEAR AND OBEY, MASTER!
WE EXIST BUT TO SERVE THE MOLE MAN!


BEFORE, I WAS CONTEMPTUOUS OF TYRANNUS' PUNY FORCE--- EVEN WITH MIGHTY MOGOL IN ITS VANGUARD!
BUT NOW, IT APPEARS THE DESTINY OF THE WORLD BENEATH THE EARTH WILL BE SETTLED TODAY--- IN DUBIOUS BATTLE!

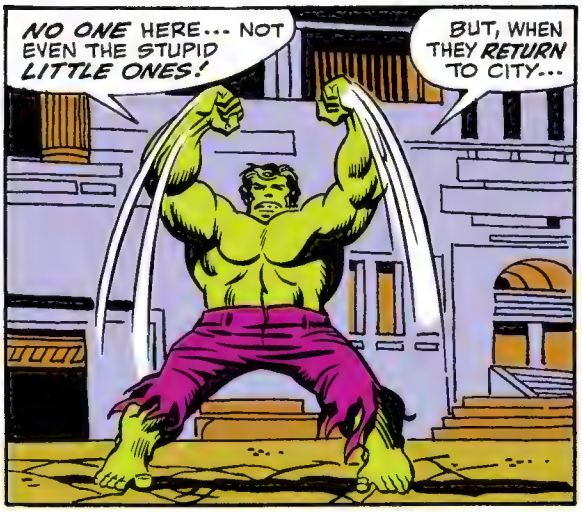

AND THEN, TWO MIGHTY ARMIES--- EACH COMPOSED OF THE NEARLY MINDLESS SUBTERRANEANS WHO ARE RULED OVER BY MEN BORN ON THE SURFACE FAR ABOVE--- FACE EACH OTHER ACROSS A VAST, UNEASY SILENCE--!


AND THEN---
FIRE!
TYRANNUS COMMANDS YOU!!
FIRE!
AFTER TODAY, THE BANNER OF THE MOLE MAN SHALL FLY OVER ALL THE CANYONS OF THIS TWILIGHT WORLD!
BEDLAM! MAYHEM! MADNESS!! AND, IN THE MIDDLE OF A WORLD GONE INSANE WITH WAR, TWO COLOSSAL FORMS TOWERING OVER ALL--- SMASHING EVERYTHING IN THEIR STRIDING PATH--!
AWAY, DIM-WITTED DWARVES! YOU ARE NOT WORTHY TO TEST GREAT MOGOL'S STRENGTH!
YES, FRIEND--- YOU ARE STRONG --- MAYBE AS STRONG AS THE HULK!
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE --- IN A WORLD OF SMALL ONES?
EVEN I DO NOT KNOW THAT--- FOR MY MEMORY IS FAULTY!
BUT, LORD TYRANNUS SAYS HE FOUND ME--- SAVED ME FROM A DEATH THAT---
MOGOL-- LOOK OUT!
ONE OF THE LITTLE ONES AIMS A WEIRD GUN AT YOU--!
TOO LATE, HULK--- TOO LATE FOR ANYTHING NOW--- EVEN FRIENDSHIP!!
MY ARM! THAT BLINDING RAY STRUCK MY ARM!
MOGOL!
16

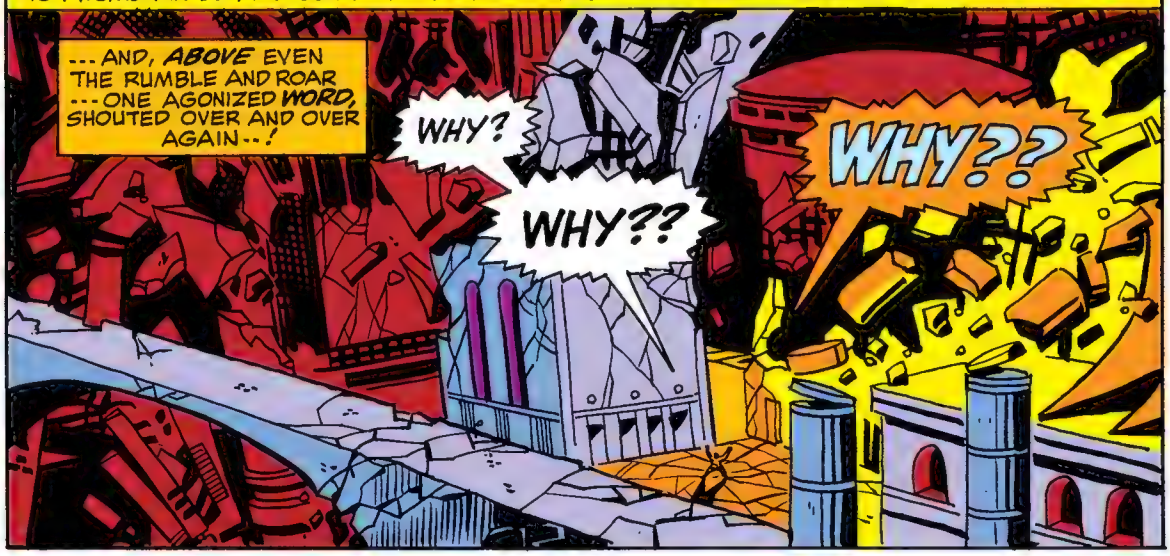
DO NOT WORRY! IT TAKES MORE THAN ONE BURNING BLAST TO...
WHY DO YOU STARE THUS AT ME, MY FRIEND?
YOUR ARM, MOGOL!
HULK IS LOOKING AT.. YOUR ARM!
WHAT ABOUT IT? THE WOUND DOES NOT HURT! I...
MY ARM... IT'S NOT A LIMB OF FLESH AND BLOOD... BUT OF TANGLED METAL, EXPOSED BY THE BLAST!
YES... METAL!
AND HULK KNOWS WHAT THAT MEANS!
MOGOL IS... A ROBOT!
THEN... THAT EXPLAINS WHY I HAVE NO MEMORY! I AM THE CREATION OF... TYRANNUS!
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER TO HULK?
I SWEAR TO YOU, HULK... I DID NOT KNOW!!
HULK JUST KNOWS YOU'RE A ROBOT... BUILT TO TRICK HIM INTO FIGHTING ANOTHER MAN'S WARS!
AND FOR THAT... HULK WILL SMASH YOU!
NO! WHETHER I AM A ROBOT OR NO, I STILL HAVE EMOTIONS... I CAN FEEL!
YOU CAN'T BE MY FRIEND... ANYBODYS FRIEND!
YOU ARE A ROBOT!
I AM YOUR FRIEND, HULK... AND YOU MINE!
NOTHING BUT... A ROBOT!!
SKRAAP!
YOU HAVE RIPPED MY METAL BODY ASUNDER... BUT I STILL LIVE!
MY ARMS COULD STILL PUMMEL YOU... BUT I WON'T RAISE THEM AGAINST YOU!
WHAT? YOU'RE STILL TALKING?
17.

WELL, HULK WILL FIX THAT!!
WHOOM!
THERE! NOW, ROBOT WILL NEVER AGAIN TRICK HULK INTO THINKING HE HAS A FRIEND!
I-- DID NOT-- TRICK YOU -- HULK! I-- DID NOT!
WE WERE FRIENDS--- COULD STILL BE FRIENDS--- IF ONLY---
HUH? NOW VOICE COMES--- FROM THAT LITTLE METAL BOX!
PLEASE, HULK-- DO NOT SMASH ME--- DO NOT DESTROY ME! I AM YOUR FRIEND, HULK--
YOUR ONLY---
FRIENNNNY:
YOU'VE DESTROYED HIM, HULK! BUT, HE WAS USELESS TO ME, ONCE THE MOLE LEARNED THAT HEAT RAYS COULD DEFEAT HIM!
STILL, HE WAS BUT A ROBOT-- PROGRAMMED TO THINK HE HAD EMOTIONS! YOU HAVE NO SUCH WEAKNESS!
OBLITERATE THE MOLE MAN'S FORTRESS FOR ME ---AND REIGN AT MY SIDE!
YES... THE MOLE MAN'S FORTRESS!
HULK WILL CRUSH IT --- NOW!
THAT'S IT, HULK! THROW THAT MASS OF DEBRIS --- THROW IT!

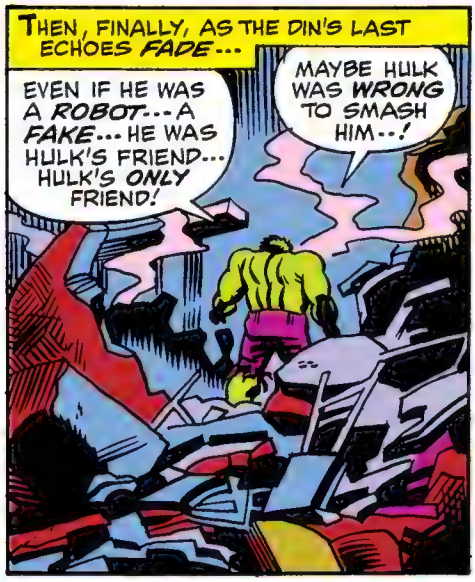
YES! HULK WILL THROW IT! HULK WILL!
FROOM!
YOU HAVE SERVED TYRANNUS WELL, HULK! NOW YOU SHALL SHARE IN THE FRUITS OF---
WAIT! WHY--- ARE YOU STRIDING TOWARDS ME--- LIKE THAT--?
KEEP BACK, YOU BRUTE! KEEP BACK!
HE LEAPED AWAY--- WITHOUT A WORD!
AND--- IF HE GOES WHERE I SUSPECT ---WHERE I FEAR---
MY TRIUMPH SHALL TURN TO BITTER ASHES IN MY VERY THROAT!!
---HERE IS THE PLACE HULK WANTED TO GO!
---THE CITY THAT BELONGS TO--- TYRANNUS!

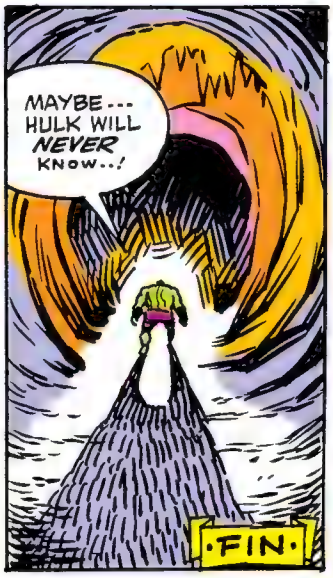


FOR A FLEETING INSTANT, ALL SEEMS AS TRANQUIL AS BEFORE! THEN, STARK SHOCK-WAVES OF SHATTERING FORCE TEAR PILLAR FROM PARAPET -- AS IMMEASURABLE VIBRATIONS RIP TO ATOMS AN EDIFICE BUILT ON ONE MAN'S LUST FOR TOTAL POWER...



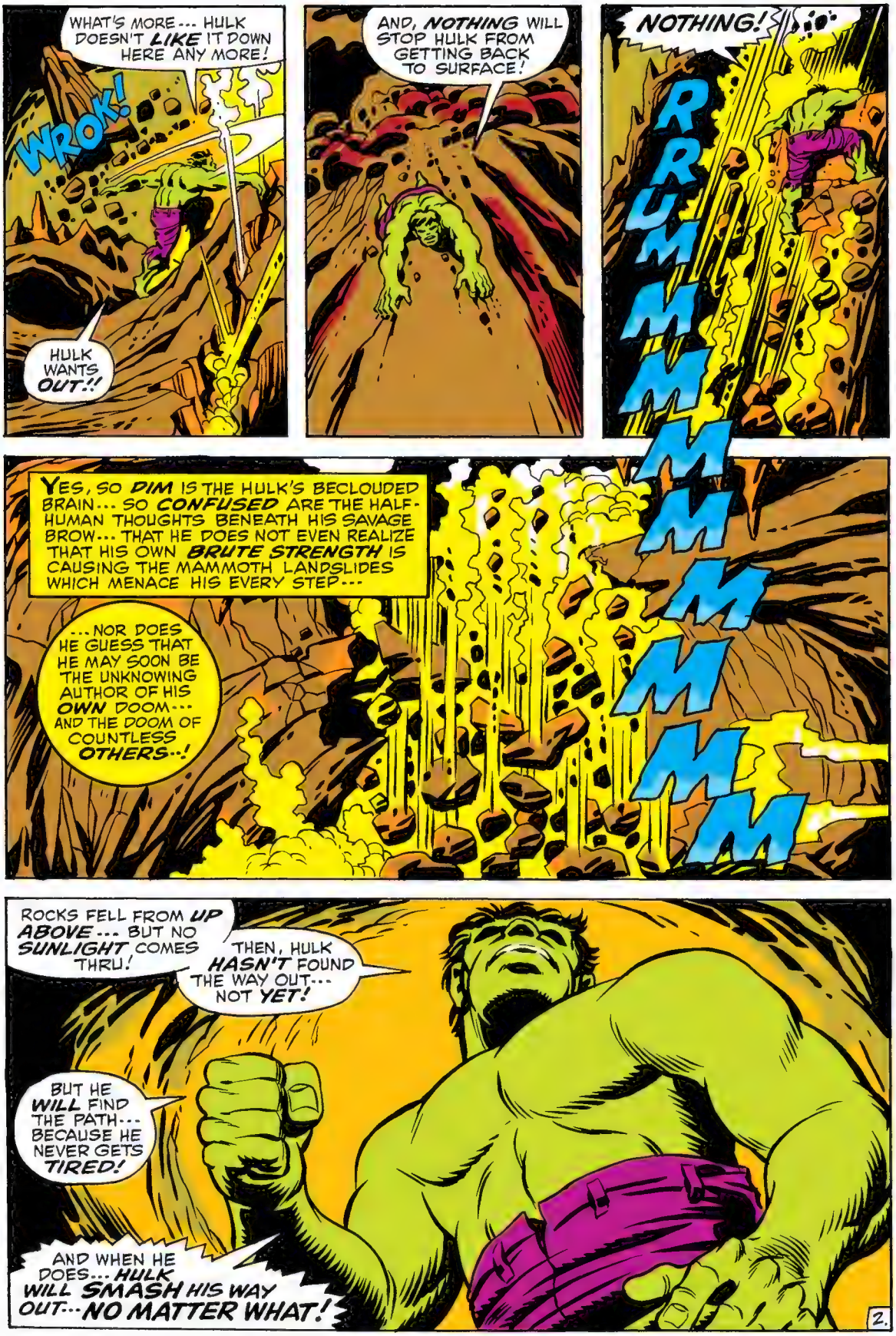
THEN, FINALLY, AS THE DIN'S LAST ECHOES FADE...

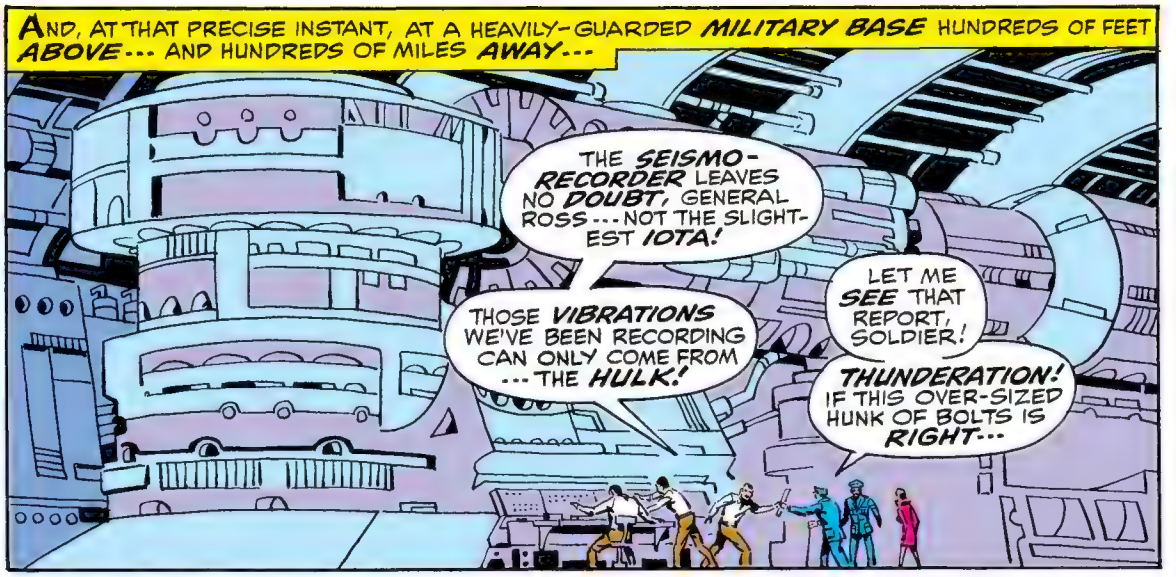


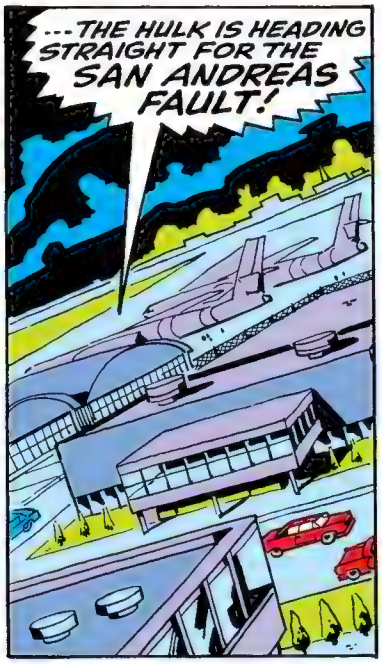


INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
128
JUNE
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
HE'S RIGHT BELOW US! WE'VE FOUND THE HULK!
NO PLACE TO RUN! SO I STAND AND FIGHT!
THE GREEN GARGANTUAN BATTLES THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!
TRIMPE

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
LET THE GROUND TREMBLE! LET THE EARTH SHAKE! FOR, THRU THE NIGHT-DARK CAVERNS WHICH HONEY-COMB THE EARTH'S CRUST, THERE STRIDES THE MOST POWERFUL BEHEMOTH OF ALL--- THE HULK!!
MOLE MAN WON'T FOLLOW HULK! TYRANNUS WON'T FOLLOW HULK!
IF THEY DO---HULK WILL SMASH THEM--- JUST LIKE HE DID THEIR ARMIES!*
HULK IS THE STRONGEST THERE IS!!
* LAST ISSUE! ---STAN.
AND IN THIS CORNER...
THE AVENGERS!
208Z
STAN LEE EDITOR • ROY THOMAS WRITER • HERB TRIMPE ARTIST • SAM ROSEN LETTERER

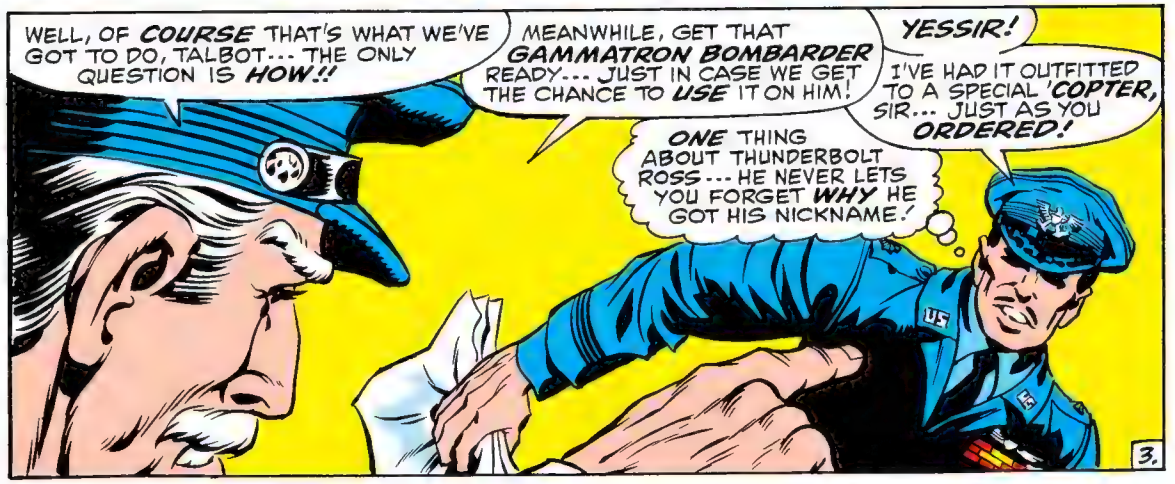

WHAT'S MORE... HULK DOESN'T LIKE IT DOWN HERE ANY MORE!
WROK!
HULK WANTS OUT!!
AND, NOTHING WILL STOP HULK FROM GETTING BACK TO SURFACE!
NOTHING!
RRUMMMMMMMMM
YES, SO DIM IS THE HULK'S BECLOUDED BRAIN... SO CONFUSED ARE THE HALF-HUMAN THOUGHTS BENEATH HIS SAVAGE BROW... THAT HE DOES NOT EVEN REALIZE THAT HIS OWN BRUTE STRENGTH IS CAUSING THE MAMMOTH LANDSLIDES WHICH MENACE HIS EVERY STEP...
...NOR DOES HE GUESS THAT HE MAY SOON BE THE UNKNOWING AUTHOR OF HIS OWN DOOM... AND THE DOOM OF COUNTLESS OTHERS..!
ROCKS FELL FROM UP ABOVE... BUT NO SUNLIGHT COMES THRU!
THEN, HULK HASN'T FOUND THE WAY OUT... NOT YET!
BUT HE WILL FIND THE PATH... BECAUSE HE NEVER GETS TIRED!
AND WHEN HE DOES... HULK WILL SMASH HIS WAY OUT... NO MATTER WHAT!
2.

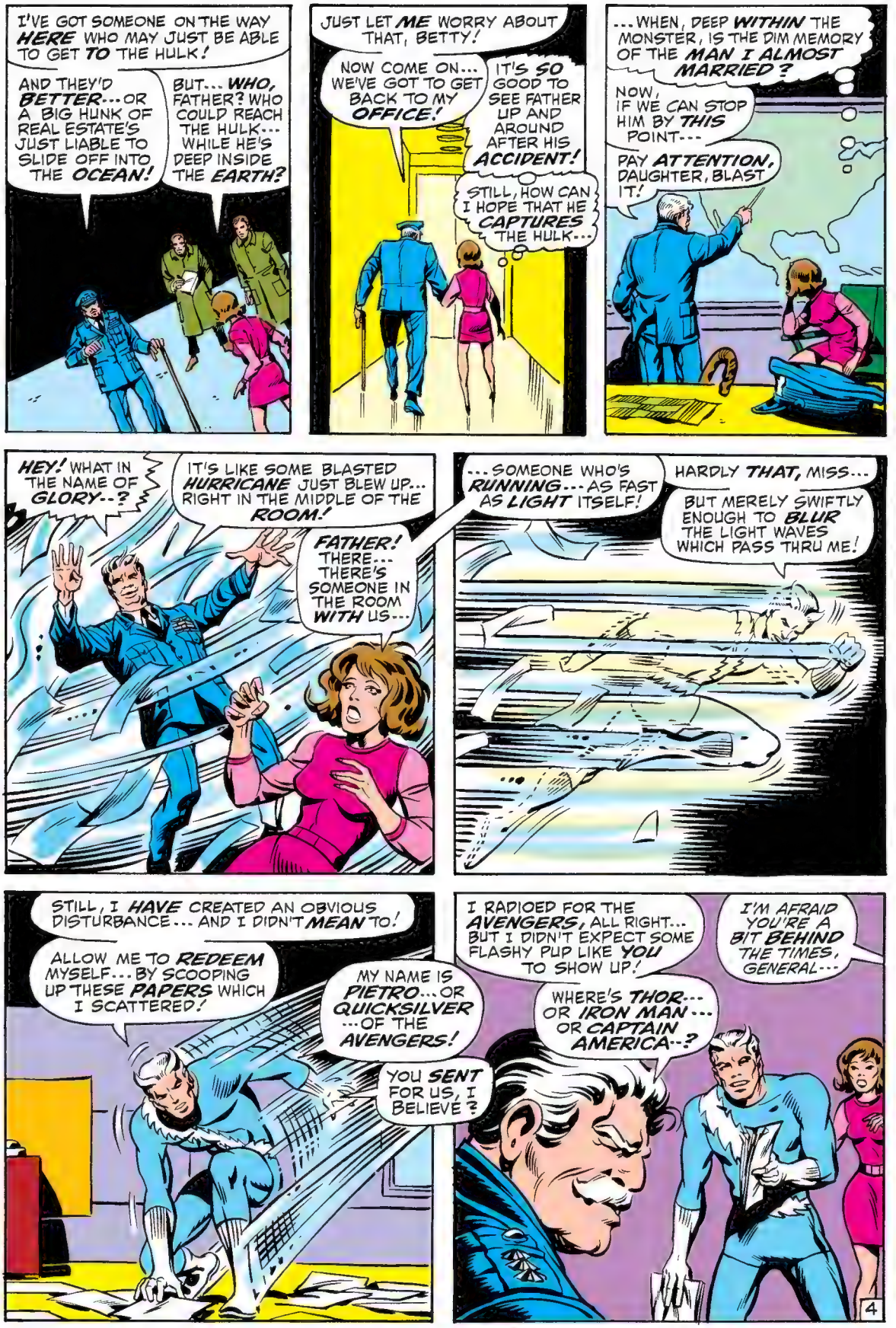

AND, AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT, AT A HEAVILY-GUARDED MILITARY BASE HUNDREDS OF FEET ABOVE--- AND HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY---
THE SEISMO-RECORDER LEAVES NO DOUBT, GENERAL ROSS---NOT THE SLIGHTEST IOTA!
THOSE VIBRATIONS WE'VE BEEN RECORDING CAN ONLY COME FROM ---THE HULK!
LET ME SEE THAT REPORT, SOLDIER!
THUNDERATION! IF THIS OVER-SIZED HUNK OF BOLTS IS RIGHT---


---THE HULK IS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT!

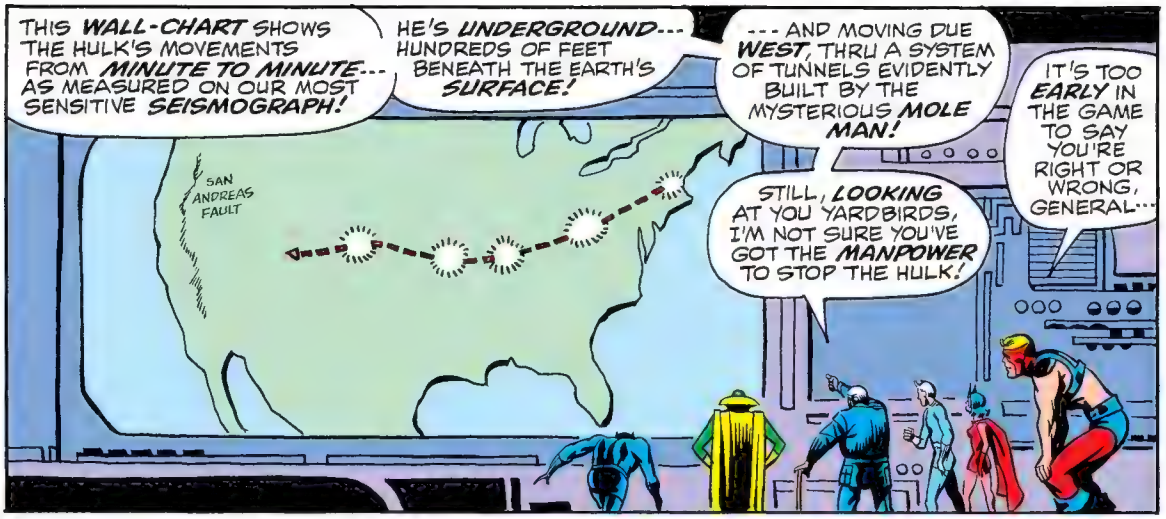
DON'T EXCITE YOURSELF, SIR! REMEMBER YOUR CONDITION--!
HANG MY CONDITION ...AND THE NEXT MAN WHO MENTIONS IT!
IF THAT GREEN-SKINNED GALOOT GOES STOMPING THRU THE FAULT---
HE'S GOING TO START THE BIGGEST 'QUAKE SINCE FRISCO!

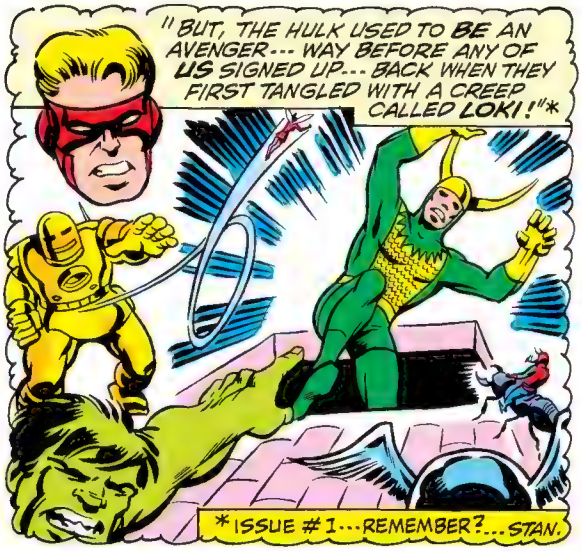
NOW, DON'T BOTHER ME--- I'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING--- GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
THE FATE OF MILLIONS MAY BE HANGING BY A THREAD--- AND THERE'S SO LITTLE TIME--!
IF ONLY WE COULD LURE THE HULK TO THE SURFACE--- BEFORE HE HITS THE FAULT---!

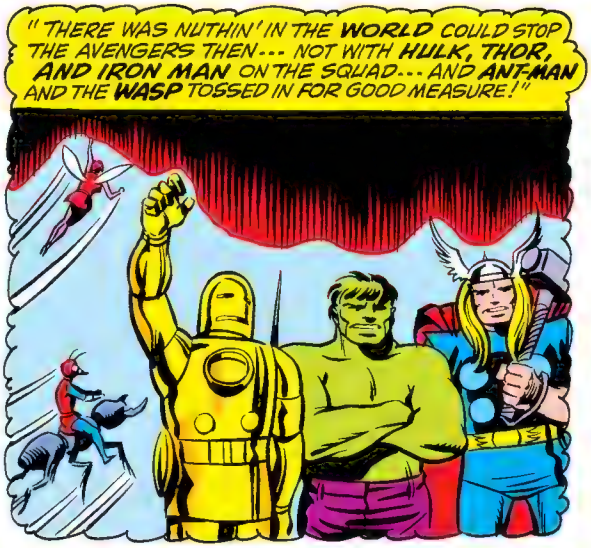

WELL, OF COURSE THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO, TALBOT--- THE ONLY QUESTION IS HOW!!
MEANWHILE, GET THAT GAMMATRON BOMBARDER READY--- JUST IN CASE WE GET THE CHANCE TO USE IT ON HIM!
YESSIR!
I'VE HAD IT OUTFITTED TO A SPECIAL 'COPTER, SIR... JUST AS YOU ORDERED!
ONE THING ABOUT THUNDERBOLT ROSS--- HE NEVER LETS YOU FORGET WHY HE GOT HIS NICKNAME!


I'VE GOT SOMEONE ON THE WAY HERE WHO MAY JUST BE ABLE TO GET TO THE HULK!
AND THEY'D BETTER... OR A BIG HUNK OF REAL ESTATE'S JUST LIABLE TO SLIDE OFF INTO THE OCEAN!
BUT... WHO, FATHER? WHO COULD REACH THE HULK... WHILE HE'S DEEP INSIDE THE EARTH?
JUST LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT, BETTY!
NOW COME ON... WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO MY OFFICE!
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE FATHER UP AND AROUND AFTER HIS ACCIDENT!
STILL, HOW CAN I HOPE THAT HE CAPTURES THE HULK...
...WHEN, DEEP WITHIN THE MONSTER, IS THE DIM MEMORY OF THE MAN I ALMOST MARRIED?
NOW, IF WE CAN STOP HIM BY THIS POINT...
PAY ATTENTION, DAUGHTER, BLAST IT!
HEY! WHAT IN THE NAME OF GLORY--?
IT'S LIKE SOME BLASTED HURRICANE JUST BLEW UP... RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM!
FATHER! THERE... THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE ROOM WITH US...
...SOMEONE WHO'S RUNNING... AS FAST AS LIGHT ITSELF!
HARDLY THAT, MISS...
BUT MERELY SWIFTLY ENOUGH TO BLUR THE LIGHT WAVES WHICH PASS THRU ME!
STILL, I HAVE CREATED AN OBVIOUS DISTURBANCE... AND I DIDN'T MEAN TO!
ALLOW ME TO REDEEM MYSELF... BY SCOOPING UP THESE PAPERS WHICH I SCATTERED!
MY NAME IS PIETRO... OR QUICKSILVER ...OF THE AVENGERS!
YOU SENT FOR US, I BELIEVE?
I RADIOED FOR THE AVENGERS, ALL RIGHT... BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT SOME FLASHY PUP LIKE YOU TO SHOW UP!
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE A BIT BEHIND THE TIMES, GENERAL...
WHERE'S THOR... OR IRON MAN... OR CAPTAIN AMERICA--?
4

WHO IN BLAZES..? NOW THEY'RE COMING THRU THE WALL!
MEN CALL ME... THE VISION!
PIETRO'S AND MY COLLEAGUES WILL BE HERE WITHIN THE MINUTE!
QUICKSILVER? THE VISION? I'VE HEARD VAGUELY OF YOU TWO, OF COURSE!
BUT, WHEN I SENT THAT TOP-PRIORITY MESSAGE, I FIGURED THE AVENGERS WOULD SEND THEIR TOP GUNS!
FATHER.. THESE MEN HAVE COME TO HELP..!
I KNOW, GIRL, I KNOW... BUT BLAST IT, THE FUTURE OF THE WEST COAST IS HANGING IN THE BALANCE!
I THOUGHT AT LEAST THAT LONG-HAIRED THUNDER GOD WOULD SHOW UP... OR...
NOW WHO IN THUNDERATION..??
GENERAL ROSS, MAY I INTRODUCE... THE SCARLET WITCH, THE BLACK PANTHER... AND A SOMEWHAT OVERSIZED GENTLEMAN CALLED GOLIATH!
THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE CALLED US... THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!
AND WE ARE MIGHTY, GENERAL... THOUGH PERHAPS NOT QUITE SO MUCH AS THOSE YOU NAMED BEFORE!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, LADY!
THIS MAN-MOUNTAIN'S BEEN WAITIN' FOR A CHANCE TO INDIAN-WRESTLE OL' GREEN-SKIN FOR A LONG TIME NOW!
WE HAVE MERELY ASSUMED, SIR, THAT YOUR SUMMONS CONCERNS THE HULK!
IT SAID ONLY THAT IT WAS A MATTER OF ...LIFE AND DEATH!
IN WHICH CASE, WE'D BEST GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!
UH.. BY ALL MEANS... AVENGERS!
5


THIS WALL-CHART SHOWS THE HULK'S MOVEMENTS FROM MINUTE TO MINUTE--- AS MEASURED ON OUR MOST SENSITIVE SEISMOGRAPH!
HE'S UNDERGROUND--- HUNDREDS OF FEET BENEATH THE EARTH'S SURFACE!
--- AND MOVING DUE WEST, THRU A SYSTEM OF TUNNELS EVIDENTLY BUILT BY THE MYSTERIOUS MOLE MAN!
IT'S TOO EARLY IN THE GAME TO SAY YOU'RE RIGHT OR WRONG, GENERAL---
STILL, LOOKING AT YOU YARDBIRDS, I'M NOT SURE YOU'VE GOT THE MANPOWER TO STOP THE HULK!
SAN ANDREAS FAULT

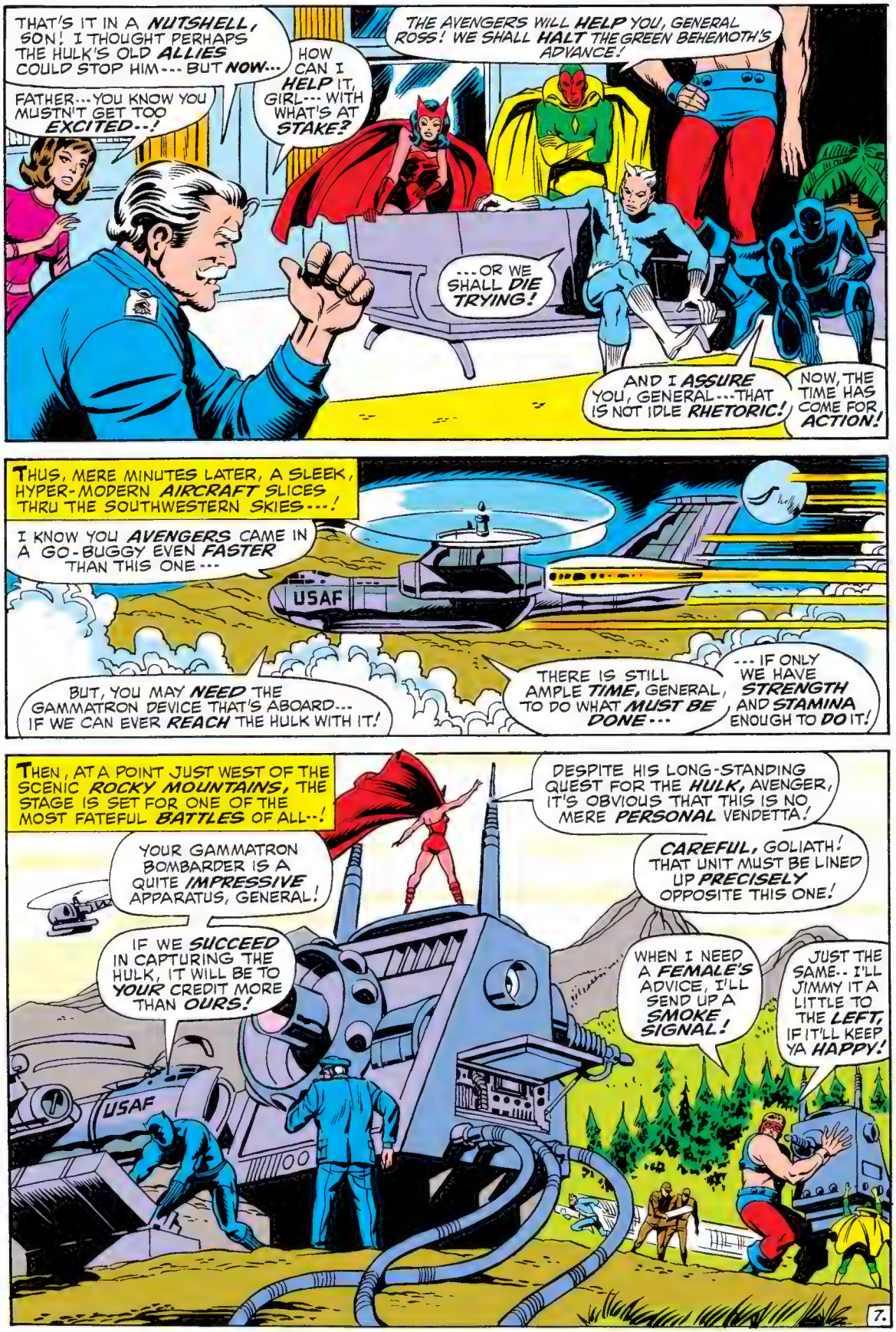

"BUT, THE HULK USED TO BE AN AVENGER--- WAY BEFORE ANY OF US SIGNED UP--- BACK WHEN THEY FIRST TANGLED WITH A CREEP CALLED LOKI!"*
*ISSUE #1---REMEMBER?---STAN.


"THERE WAS NUTHIN' IN THE WORLD COULD STOP THE AVENGERS THEN--- NOT WITH HULK, THOR, AND IRON MAN ON THE SQUAD--- AND ANT-MAN AND THE WASP TOSSED IN FOR GOOD MEASURE!"

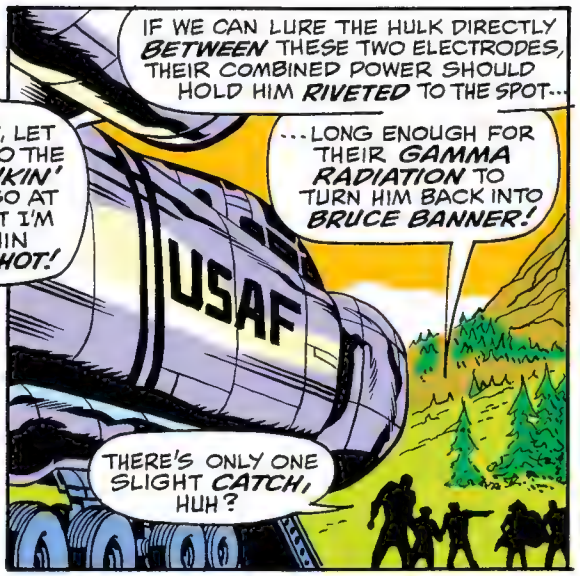
SO, Y'SEE, WE'VE GOT TWO REASONS TO HOGTIE THAT GREEN-SKINNED GALOOT!
FOR HIS OWN SAKE--- AND SO WE CAN MAYBE ADD SOME MORE MUSCLE TO OUR TEAM!
YOU'VE GOT A FAR MORE IMPORTANT REASON THAN EITHER OF THOSE, FELLA!

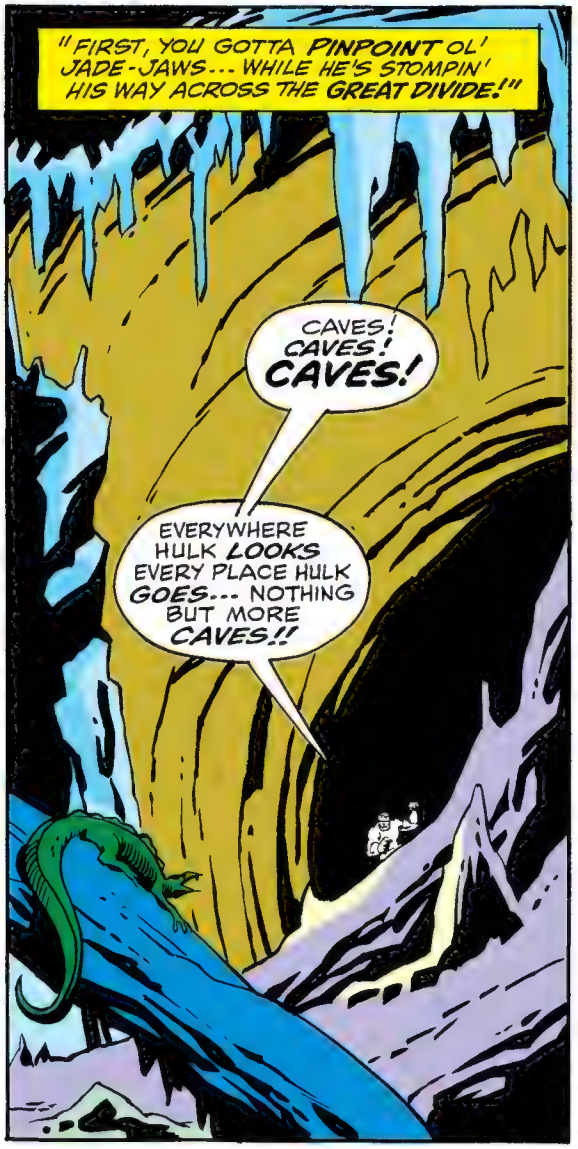
AN ENTIRE STATE? I FAIL TO SEE WHAT YOU---
WAIT, PIETRO! IT'S ALL CRYSTAL CLEAR NOW!
YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE STATE TO SAVE, BLAST IT!
LOOK AT THE MAP--- AT THE HULK'S RANDOM PATH!

AT HIS PRESENT RATE OF SPEED, HE'LL INTERSECT WITH THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT WITHIN MERE HOURS!
AND WHEN HE DOES--- NO MORTAL MAN CAN CALCULATE THE DIRE RESULT!


THAT'S IT IN A NUTSHELL, SON! I THOUGHT PERHAPS THE HULK'S OLD ALLIES COULD STOP HIM--- BUT NOW...
FATHER---YOU KNOW YOU MUSTN'T GET TOO EXCITED--!
HOW CAN I HELP IT, GIRL--- WITH WHAT'S AT STAKE?
THE AVENGERS WILL HELP YOU, GENERAL ROSS! WE SHALL HALT THE GREEN BEHEMOTH'S ADVANCE!
---OR WE SHALL DIE TRYING!
AND I ASSURE YOU, GENERAL---THAT IS NOT IDLE RHETORIC!
NOW, THE TIME HAS COME FOR ACTION!
THUS, MERE MINUTES LATER, A SLEEK, HYPER-MODERN AIRCRAFT SLICES THRU THE SOUTHWESTERN SKIES---!
I KNOW YOU AVENGERS CAME IN A GO-BUGGY EVEN FASTER THAN THIS ONE---
USAF
BUT, YOU MAY NEED THE GAMMATRON DEVICE THAT'S ABOARD--- IF WE CAN EVER REACH THE HULK WITH IT!
THERE IS STILL AMPLE TIME, GENERAL, TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE---
--- IF ONLY WE HAVE STRENGTH AND STAMINA ENOUGH TO DO IT!
THEN, AT A POINT JUST WEST OF THE SCENIC ROCKY MOUNTAINS, THE STAGE IS SET FOR ONE OF THE MOST FATEFUL BATTLES OF ALL--!
DESPITE HIS LONG-STANDING QUEST FOR THE HULK, AVENGER, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THIS IS NO MERE PERSONAL VENDETTA!
YOUR GAMMATRON BOMBARDER IS A QUITE IMPRESSIVE APPARATUS, GENERAL!
CAREFUL, GOLIATH! THAT UNIT MUST BE LINED UP PRECISELY OPPOSITE THIS ONE!
IF WE SUCCEED IN CAPTURING THE HULK, IT WILL BE TO YOUR CREDIT MORE THAN OURS!
WHEN I NEED A FEMALE'S ADVICE, I'LL SEND UP A SMOKE SIGNAL!
JUST THE SAME-- I'LL JIMMY IT A LITTLE TO THE LEFT, IF IT'LL KEEP YA HAPPY!
USAF

THAT'S AS GOOD AS IT'S GONNA GET!
YES, SIR!
JUST A SECOND, SOLDIER!
NOW, TELL 'EM ABOUT THAT GAMMATRON GIZMO, TALBOT!
FIRST, LET ME DO THE SHRINKIN' BIT, SO AT LEAST I'M WITHIN EARSHOT!

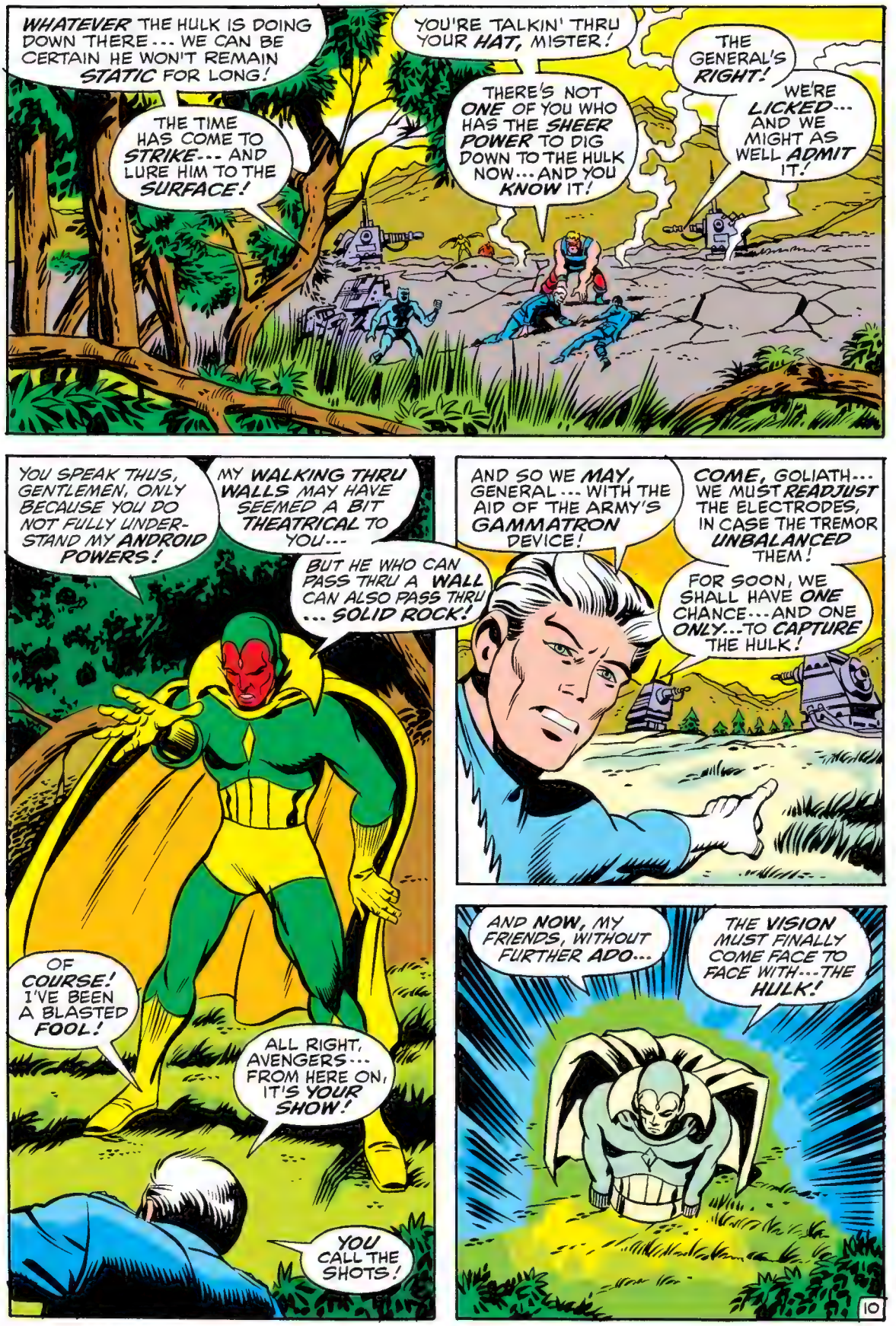

IF WE CAN LURE THE HULK DIRECTLY BETWEEN THESE TWO ELECTRODES, THEIR COMBINED POWER SHOULD HOLD HIM RIVETED TO THE SPOT...
...LONG ENOUGH FOR THEIR GAMMA RADIATION TO TURN HIM BACK INTO BRUCE BANNER!
USAF
THERE'S ONLY ONE SLIGHT CATCH, HUH?


"FIRST, YOU GOTTA PINPOINT OL' JADE-JAWS... WHILE HE'S STOMPIN' HIS WAY ACROSS THE GREAT DIVIDE!"
CAVES! CAVES! CAVES!
EVERYWHERE HULK LOOKS EVERY PLACE HULK GOES... NOTHING BUT MORE CAVES!!

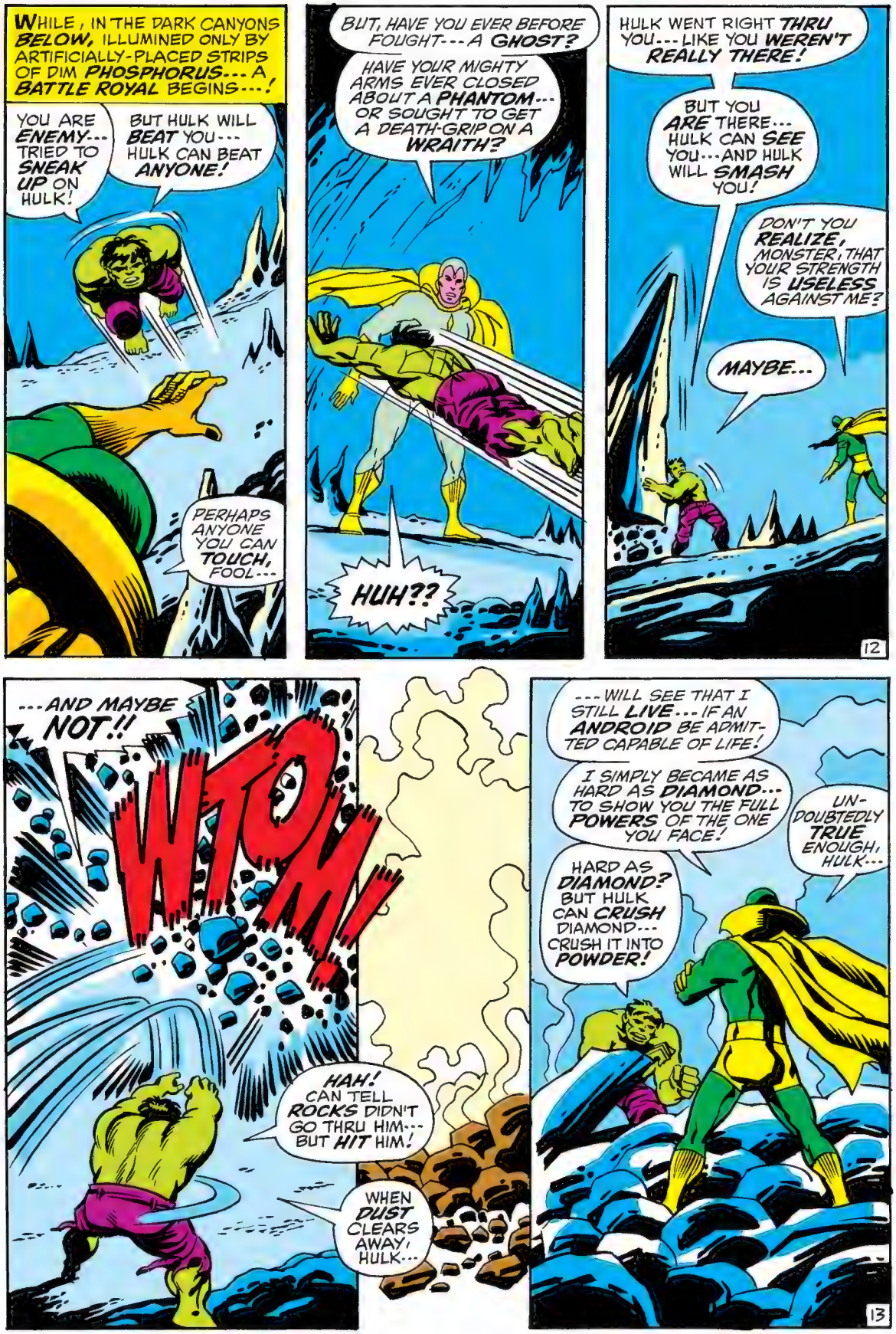
HARD FOR HULK TO REMEMBER... HOW HE EVEN GOT HERE!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER! ALL THAT MATTERS IS...

NOTHING WILL STOP THE HULK FROM GETTING OUT OF HERE...

NOTHING!!
FROO
WHAT IN BLAZES? THE GROUND'S SHAKING... LIKE THE QUAKE'S ALREADY BEGUN!
WE-- WE DIDN'T HAVE TO FIND THE HULK--!
NO! HE--- FOUND US!
OOOOOMM
ROCKS FALLING ALL AROUND HULK---BUT THEY CAN'T HURT HIM!
NOTHING CAN HURT THE HULK!
HE'LL KEEP SMASHING ---KEEP HITTING-- TILL HE IS FREE!
HMM
---THAT MUST BE THE HULK! IT HAS TO BE!
A MOMENT BEFORE THE TREMOR, YOUR APPARATUS DETECTED A MOVING FORM DIRECTLY BELOW US!
BUT, THE MACHINE WAS FRAGILE---AND THAT TREMOR DESTROYED IT!
ONCE THE HULK MOVES ON--- WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TRACK HIM AGAIN!
THINK, HULK --- THINK!
WHY IS IT ALWAYS SO HARD FOR YOU TO THINK?
SHOULD YOU TRY TO BREAK OUT HERE--- OR KEEP GOING?
WHICH ONE, HULK?!


WHATEVER THE HULK IS DOING DOWN THERE--- WE CAN BE CERTAIN HE WON'T REMAIN STATIC FOR LONG!
THE TIME HAS COME TO STRIKE--- AND LURE HIM TO THE SURFACE!
YOU'RE TALKIN' THRU YOUR HAT, MISTER!
THERE'S NOT ONE OF YOU WHO HAS THE SHEER POWER TO DIG DOWN TO THE HULK NOW--- AND YOU KNOW IT!
THE GENERAL'S RIGHT!
WE'RE LICKED--- AND WE MIGHT AS WELL ADMIT IT!
YOU SPEAK THUS, GENTLEMEN, ONLY BECAUSE YOU DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND MY ANDROID POWERS!
MY WALKING THRU WALLS MAY HAVE SEEMED A BIT THEATRICAL TO YOU---
BUT HE WHO CAN PASS THRU A WALL CAN ALSO PASS THRU ... SOLID ROCK!
OF COURSE! I'VE BEEN A BLASTED FOOL!
ALL RIGHT, AVENGERS--- FROM HERE ON, IT'S YOUR SHOW!
YOU CALL THE SHOTS!
AND SO WE MAY, GENERAL--- WITH THE AID OF THE ARMY'S GAMMATRON DEVICE!
COME, GOLIATH--- WE MUST READJUST THE ELECTRODES, IN CASE THE TREMOR UNBALANCED THEM!
FOR SOON, WE SHALL HAVE ONE CHANCE--- AND ONE ONLY--- TO CAPTURE THE HULK!
AND NOW, MY FRIENDS, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO...
THE VISION MUST FINALLY COME FACE TO FACE WITH--- THE HULK!

HE-- HE SANK RIGHT INTO THE GROUND... BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!
THE VISION CONTROLS UTTERLY THE MASS OF HIS OWN BODY, GENERAL!
STILL, HE HAS NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED THE HULK!
I WONDER-- WILL HIS INHUMAN POWERS BE ENOUGH TO PROTECT HIM?
HULK HAS MADE UP HIS MIND!
HE WILL GO ON... UNTIL HE FINDS THE WAY OUT OF HERE!
THEN-- WHY DOES HULK KEEP STARING AT ROOF OF CAVE---
---LIKE THERE WAS DANGER ABOVE--- SOMEONE COMING THIS WAY TO ATTACK HIM?
NO ONE CAN REACH HULK THRU SOLID GROUND ABOVE--- NO ONE!
PERHAPS NO ORDINARY MAN MAY REACH YOU NOW, HULK!
BUT, THE VISION IS NOT AN ORDINARY MAN!
WHAT??
HULK--- IS NOT ALONE!
HE'S DONE IT!
THE VISION HAS REACHED THE CAVERN BELOW --- WHERE THE HULK IS!
THEN HE'S OUR ONE HOPE!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THE HULK HERE, OR---
DO NOT SAY IT, GENERAL!
THE ALTERNATIVE IS TOO GRUESOME---TOO HORRIBLE TO CONTEMPLATE!
11.

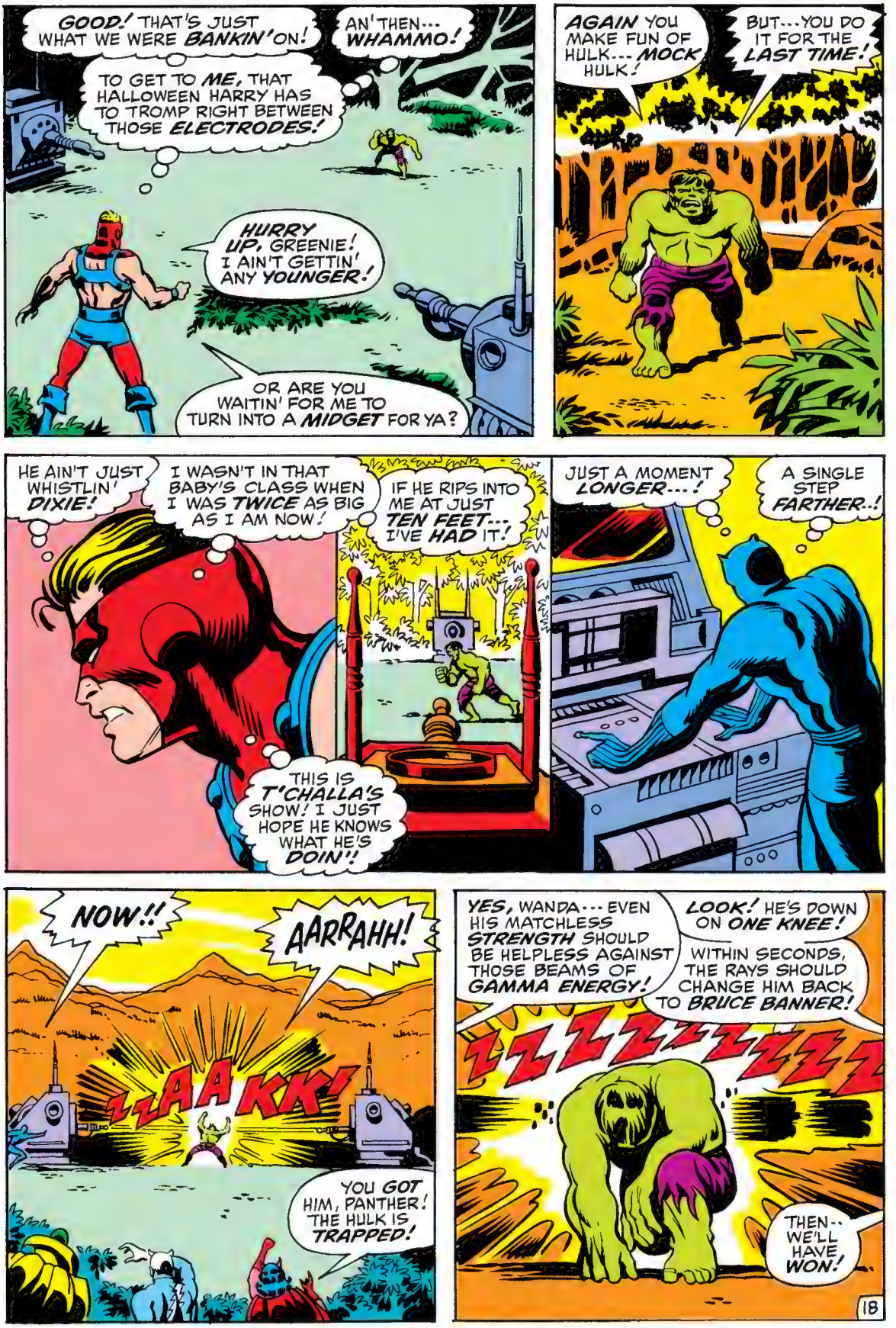

WHILE, IN THE DARK CANYONS BELOW, ILLUMINED ONLY BY ARTIFICIALLY-PLACED STRIPS OF DIM PHOSPHORUS--- A BATTLE ROYAL BEGINS---!
YOU ARE ENEMY--- TRIED TO SNEAK UP ON HULK!
BUT HULK WILL BEAT YOU--- HULK CAN BEAT ANYONE!
PERHAPS ANYONE YOU CAN TOUCH, FOOL---
BUT, HAVE YOU EVER BEFORE FOUGHT--- A GHOST?
HAVE YOUR MIGHTY ARMS EVER CLOSED ABOUT A PHANTOM--- OR SOUGHT TO GET A DEATH-GRIP ON A WRAITH?
HUH??
HULK WENT RIGHT THRU YOU--- LIKE YOU WEREN'T REALLY THERE!
BUT YOU ARE THERE--- HULK CAN SEE YOU--- AND HULK WILL SMASH YOU!
DON'T YOU REALIZE, MONSTER, THAT YOUR STRENGTH IS USELESS AGAINST ME?
MAYBE...
12
---AND MAYBE NOT!!
WTOH!
HAH! CAN TELL ROCKS DIDN'T GO THRU HIM--- BUT HIT HIM!
WHEN DUST CLEARS AWAY, HULK---
---WILL SEE THAT I STILL LIVE--- IF AN ANDROID BE ADMITTED CAPABLE OF LIFE!
I SIMPLY BECAME AS HARD AS DIAMOND--- TO SHOW YOU THE FULL POWERS OF THE ONE YOU FACE!
UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE ENOUGH, HULK---
HARD AS DIAMOND? BUT HULK CAN CRUSH DIAMOND--- CRUSH IT INTO POWDER!
13

STILL, IT REQUIRES ONLY THE CONCENTRATION OF A FEW FATEFUL SECONDS---
--- FOR THE VISION TO BECOME ONCE MORE THE INTANGIBLE PHANTOM---
--- AND VANISH WHERE NO MAN MAY FOLLOW!
MAYBE NO MAN CAN FOLLOW YOU INTO SOLID ROCK---
BUT HULK CAN FOLLOW ANY ONE---
---ANYWHERE!!
KRUTTCH!
BURROWING---TUNNELING--- HAMMERING HIS WAY SURFACEWARD AFTER THE FLEEING VISION, THE HULK SOON BEHOLDS THAT FOR WHICH HE HAD LONGED--- THE LIGHT OF DAY!
DOWN THERE, I COULDN'T JUDGE PRECISELY WHERE THE GAMMATRON STOOD!
YET, AT LEAST--- I LED THE GREEN BEHEMOTH HERE!
MORE COSTUMED ONES--- LIKE THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
THEN---IT WAS A TRAP!
THOOM!
BUT ONE LEAP... AND HULK WILL BE OUT OF TRAP!
MAYBE YOU WOULD, GREENIE, IF YOU HAD A CLEAR SHOT AT THE SKY--- BUT AS IT IS...!
UNNHHH!
THAT... HURT ---BUT IT WAS WORTH IT--!
A GIANT... BLOCKING HULK'S LEAP!
14

NOT JUST ANY GIANT, GRUESOME---
ONE OF THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!
THE AVENGERS! HULK HAS HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE!
BUT--- DON'T REMEMBER WHEN--- OR WHERE!
THRUKK!
THEN LET ME REFRESH YOUR MIND, GREENIE! I---
MMMFF!
HULK DOESN'T LISTEN TO THE TALK OF ENEMIES!
WE'RE NOT YOUR ENEMIES, YOU UGLY HUNK OF SPINACH!
WE JUST WANNA TALK TO---
AARRHH!
OOF
WR
YOU TRY TO FOOL HULK WITH WORDS--- JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!
BUT HULK KNOWS HOW TO SHUT YOU UP!
GOLIATH IS DOWN--- IT'S UP TO US NOW!
AT LEAST WE DIVERTED HIM AWAY FROM THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT!
BUT THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING, AVENGERS--- AND YOU KNOW IT!
FOR HIS OWN SAKE--- AND FOR HUMANITY'S---
THE HULK MUST BE CAPTURED!
THWUMP!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL THIS JOKER, PAL!
I'M GONNA HAVE A SWELLED-UP JAW TO REMIND ME!
THEN COME, ALL OF YOU--- AND GIVE THE CRY---
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

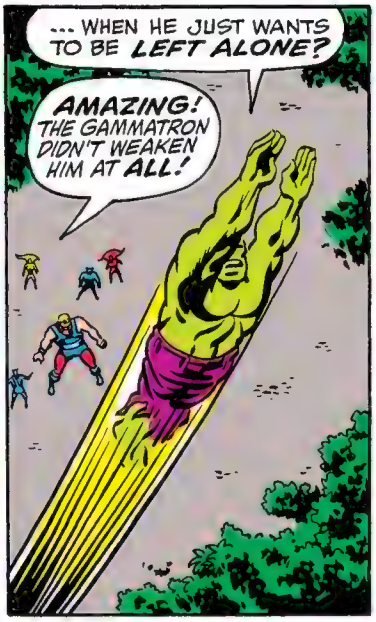
THEN, AS THE TWO MILITARY MEN CAN ONLY STAND IN STUPEFIED AWE, THE MIGHTY AVENGERS ATTACK... FIVE SUPER-POWERED STALWARTS, ARMED WITH ABILITIES FAR BEYOND THOSE OF OTHER MEN... BATTLING FOR THE FIRST TIME AS A CLOSE-KNIT FIGHTING TEAM!
THEIR RELUCTANT TARGET... THE TERRIFYING YET TORTURED TITAN WHOM A FEARFUL MANKIND HAS NAMED ...THE INCREDIBLE HULK!!
HOLY CROW! HE'S STRONGER THAN ALL OF US PUT TOGETHER!
WE GOTTA KEEP 'IM OFF-BALANCE... TILL WE CAN FIGURE OUT SOME WAY TO STOMP HIM!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO... YOU'LL NEVER DEFEAT THE HULK!
NEVER!!
NOR SHALL THEY... IF THEY RELY UPON THE HELP OF THE SCARLET WITCH!
THE AWESOME ARKON TOLD ME THAT MY POWERS WERE RESTORED... WHEN I CROSSED THE GREAT BARRIER BETWEEN OUR WORLDS!*
YET, I GESTURE AS ALWAYS IN THE PAST... AND NOTHING HAPPENS!
IS MY HEX POWER FOREVER VANISHED?
*AS SEEN IN AVENGERS #76, NOW ON SALE! --- STAN.

THE NEXT INSTANT, HOWEVER, THE AVENGERS HAVE MORE URGENT MATTERS TO WORRY ABOUT---
HULK IS TIRED OF FIGHTING---AND TIRED OF RUNNING!
MAYBE THIS FLYING THING WILL WIN FIGHT FOR HULK!
PIETRO! STOP HIM, BEFORE---
WIND WILL KEEP BACK AVENGERS--- SO THEY CAN'T COME NEAR HULK!
IT'S--- TOO LATE!
SWOOSH!
AND... WE CAN'T!!
MY HEX POWER! IF ONLY IT WOULD RETURN!
PERHAPS--- IF I EXTENDED BOTH HANDS--!
WAIT! SOMETHING IS HAPPENING NOW ---I CAN FEEL IT!
GLOWING CIRCLE--- AROUND HULK!
WHAT--??
I MIGHT CALL IT--- A HEX SPHERE!
BUT, WHAT OCCURS WITHIN THAT SPHERE--- EVEN I CANNOT FULLY CONTROL!
FTOOOM!
FLYING THING--- CATCHES ON FIRE!
WHAT WENT WRONG? HULK DOESN'T KNOW--!
UHHNNN!
SWAT!
WE'LL SPELL IT OUT FOR YA, LITTLE MAN---
---AFTER YOU AN' ME SETTLE A LITTLE SCORE BETWEEN US!
WELL, WHAT'RE YOU WAITIN' FOR, UGLY?
I CUT MYSELF DOWN TO TEN FEET, JUST FOR THE OCCASION!
SCARED?
HULK ISN'T SCARED OF YOU... NOT SCARED OF ANY-ONE!
17.


GOOD! THAT'S JUST WHAT WE WERE BANKIN' ON!
AN' THEN... WHAMMO!
TO GET TO ME, THAT HALLOWEEN HARRY HAS TO TROMP RIGHT BETWEEN THOSE ELECTRODES!
HURRY UP, GREENIE! I AIN'T GETTIN' ANY YOUNGER!
OR ARE YOU WAITIN' FOR ME TO TURN INTO A MIDGET FOR YA?
AGAIN YOU MAKE FUN OF HULK... MOCK HULK!
BUT... YOU DO IT FOR THE LAST TIME!
HE AIN'T JUST WHISTLIN' DIXIE!
I WASN'T IN THAT BABY'S CLASS WHEN I WAS TWICE AS BIG AS I AM NOW!
IF HE RIPS INTO ME AT JUST TEN FEET... I'VE HAD IT!
THIS IS T'CHALLA'S SHOW! I JUST HOPE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOIN'!
JUST A MOMENT LONGER...!
A SINGLE STEP FARTHER..!
NOW!!
AARRAHH!
LLAAKK!
YOU GOT HIM, PANTHER! THE HULK IS TRAPPED!
YES, WANDA... EVEN HIS MATCHLESS STRENGTH SHOULD BE HELPLESS AGAINST THOSE BEAMS OF GAMMA ENERGY!
LOOK! HE'S DOWN ON ONE KNEE!
WITHIN SECONDS, THE RAYS SHOULD CHANGE HIM BACK TO BRUCE BANNER!
ZZZZZZZZ
THEN-- WE'LL HAVE WON!
18

UH OH! DON'T LOOK NOW, LADY---
BUT I GOT A HUNCH THAT MENTIONIN' BRUCE BANNER WAS A NO-NO!
BANNER! HOW---HULK HATES--- THAT NAME..!
DON'T KNOW WHY... BUT IT DRIVES HULK MAD--MAD!!
MUST BREAK FREE.. FIND BRUCE BANNER ---AND SMASH HIM---!
IT-- IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
THE GAMMA-RADIATION ISN'T TURNING HIM INTO BANNER---AS WE THOUGHT!
INSTEAD... THE HULK IS FIGHTING IT OFF... HE'S RISING!
HE'S STANDING, WANDA! AND THAT MEANS--- THE TIDE HAS TURNED!
WE HAVE LOST---
YES, MASKED ONES--- YOU HAVE LOST---
---AND HULK HAS WON!!
FTAM!
HAH! RAYS FROM MACHINE--- ARE BLOWING UP MACHINE!
WE'LL GET NO MORE HELP FROM THAT GAMMA-TRON BOM-BARDER!
BDOOM
THEN THAT MEANS--- WE'RE IN FOR A KNOCK-DOWN, DRAG-OUT SLUG FEST!
STAND ASIDE, KIDDIES, WHILE GOLIATH DOES HIS THING!
HOLD, GIANT! I THINK THERE SHALL BE NO FIGHT!

NO! HULK IS THRU FIGHTING WITH COSTUMED ONES!
WHAT CAN HULK GAIN FROM MORE FIGHTING--


--- WHEN HE JUST WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE?
AMAZING! THE GAMMATRON DIDN'T WEAKEN HIM AT ALL!

BUT, WHERE THE INCREDIBLE HULK IS CONCERNED, EVEN THE AVENGERS CAN BE MISTAKEN! FOR, ONLY MOMENTS LATER ---
WHAT-- IS HAPPENING TO HULK? FEEL--- FUNNY--!
--- THE POTENT GAMMA RAYS SUDDENLY HAVE A DELAYED EFFECT---!

TOO WEAK--- TO USE ARMS AND LEGS TO GUIDE BODY THRU SKY---!

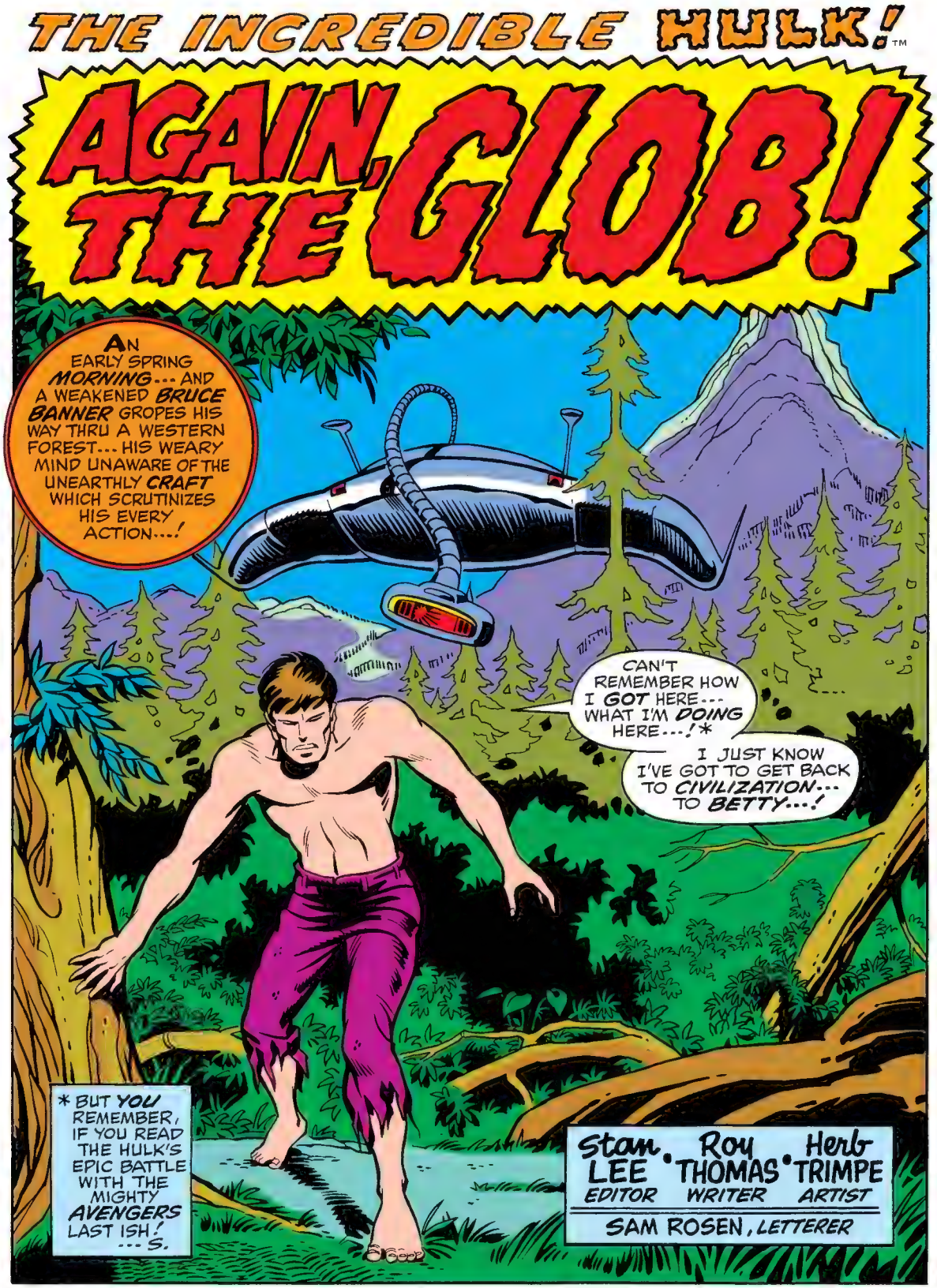
HULK IS FALLING--- FALLING---

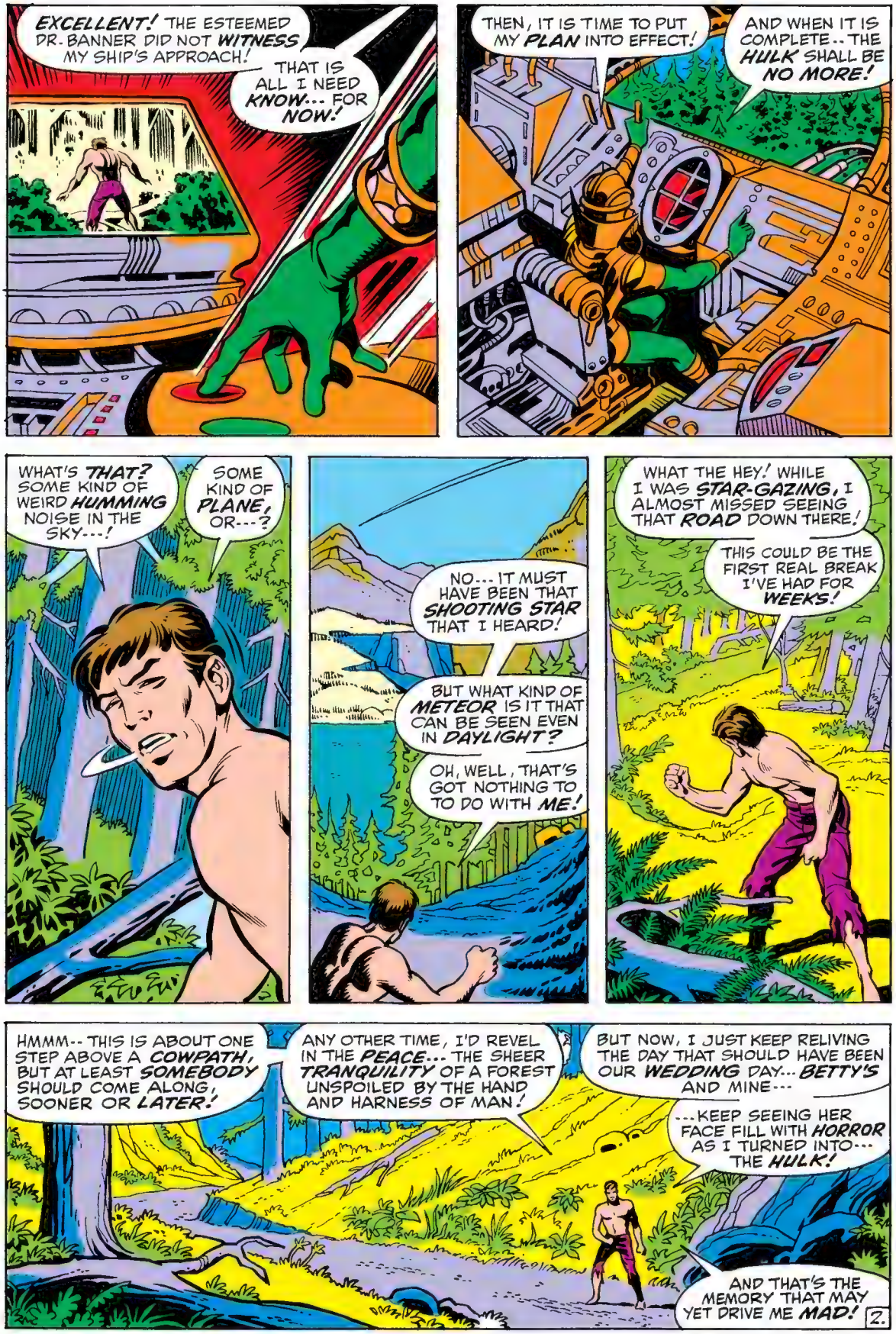
FALLLLLIIIINNNG

YET, SUCH ARE THE WHIMS OF FATE--- THE INEXPLICABLE WORKINGS OF A BLIND DESTINY-- THAT ALL THIS HAS OCCURRED JUST OUT OF THE AVENGERS' SIGHT--- AND THUS---
WELL, WE TRIED TO CORRAL OL' GREEN-SKIN --- AND WE MUFFED THE JOB!
STILL, WE MAY HAVE SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES--- AND WE PROVED THAT WE FIVE COULD ACT AS A TEAM!
YOUR WORDS HAVE THE RING OF WISDOM, PIETRO!
AND, WE SHALL SEEK OUT THE HULK ANOTHER DAY!
THERE IS LITTLE USE IN SEARCHING FURTHER FOR THE HULK---!

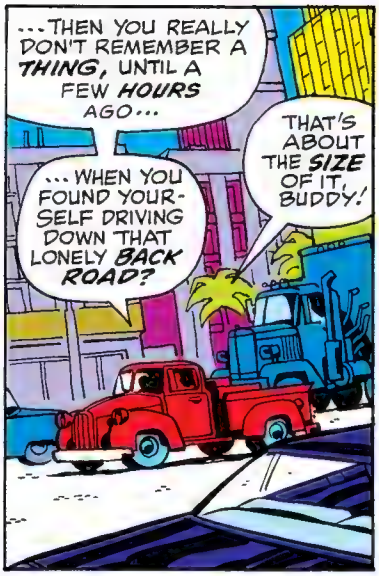
BY NOW, HE IS MANY MILES FROM HERE!
USAF
NEXT: AGAIN, THE GLOB!

INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
129
JULY
HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
CAN'T... HOLD ON! GOING TO FALL..!!
TRIMPE
THE GLOB WRITHES AGAIN!

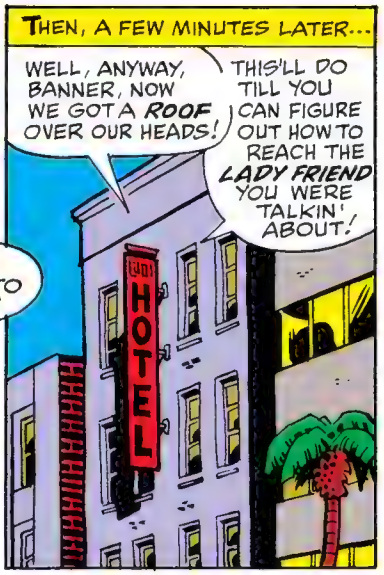

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
AGAIN, THE GLOB!
AN EARLY SPRING MORNING... AND A WEAKENED BRUCE BANNER GROPES HIS WAY THRU A WESTERN FOREST... HIS WEARY MIND UNAWARE OF THE UNEARTHLY CRAFT WHICH SCRUTINIZES HIS EVERY ACTION...!
CAN'T REMEMBER HOW I GOT HERE... WHAT I'M DOING HERE...!*
I JUST KNOW I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO CIVILIZATION... TO BETTY...!
* BUT YOU REMEMBER, IF YOU READ THE HULK'S EPIC BATTLE WITH THE MIGHTY AVENGERS LAST ISH! --- S.
Stan LEE EDITOR
Roy THOMAS WRITER
Herb TRIMPE ARTIST
SAM ROSEN, LETTERER


EXCELLENT! THE ESTEEMED DR. BANNER DID NOT WITNESS MY SHIP'S APPROACH!
THAT IS ALL I NEED KNOW... FOR NOW!
THEN, IT IS TIME TO PUT MY PLAN INTO EFFECT!
AND WHEN IT IS COMPLETE -- THE HULK SHALL BE NO MORE!
WHAT'S THAT? SOME KIND OF WEIRD HUMMING NOISE IN THE SKY...!
SOME KIND OF PLANE, OR...?
NO... IT MUST HAVE BEEN THAT SHOOTING STAR THAT I HEARD!
BUT WHAT KIND OF METEOR IS IT THAT CAN BE SEEN EVEN IN DAYLIGHT?
OH, WELL, THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO TO DO WITH ME!
WHAT THE HEY! WHILE I WAS STAR-GAZING, I ALMOST MISSED SEEING THAT ROAD DOWN THERE!
THIS COULD BE THE FIRST REAL BREAK I'VE HAD FOR WEEKS!
HMMM -- THIS IS ABOUT ONE STEP ABOVE A COWPATH, BUT AT LEAST SOMEBODY SHOULD COME ALONG, SOONER OR LATER!
ANY OTHER TIME, I'D REVEL IN THE PEACE... THE SHEER TRANQUILITY OF A FOREST UNSPOILED BY THE HAND AND HARNESS OF MAN!
BUT NOW, I JUST KEEP RELIVING THE DAY THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OUR WEDDING DAY... BETTY'S AND MINE...
...KEEP SEEING HER FACE FILL WITH HORROR AS I TURNED INTO... THE HULK!
AND THAT'S THE MEMORY THAT MAY YET DRIVE ME MAD!
2.

IF ONLY I COULD REACH HER--- TELL HER I'M ALL RIGHT--- THAT---
WADDAYA KNOW! HERE COMES A TRUCK!
IF HE'S NOT SHY OF HITCH-HIKERS, THIS COULD BE MY LUCKY DAY!
---A RIDE? SURE, I'M GOIN' IN TO L.A. MYSELF--- I GUESS!
YOU'RE LUCKY I HAPPENED BY! A GUY CAN CATCH HIS DEATH, RUNNIN' AROUND BAREBACK LIKE THAT!
YOU'RE TELLING ME!
ANYWAY, THANKS FOR THE LIFT, FELLA!
THINK NOTHIN' OF IT! BY THE WAY, THE NAME'S SAM STERNS! BUT SAY---
YOU LOOK AWFUL FAMILIAR! AIN'T I SEEN YOUR PICTURE IN THE PAPER OR SOMETHIN'?
LOOK--YOU'LL PROBABLY REMEMBER SOON ENOUGH, SO THERE'S NO SENSE BEATING AROUND THE BUSH!
MY NAME IS BANNER--- BRUCE BANNER!
THAT RING ANY BELLS?
BANNER--- BANNER? SURE, NOW I KNOW! YOU'RE THE GUY I READ ABOUT THAT TURNS INTO THE HULK!
SAY---YOU AIN'T GONNA DO NUTHIN' LIKE THAT NOW, ARE YOU?
I MEAN --- I DON'T MIND GIVIN' YOU A LIFT, BUT---
DON'T WORRY, FRIEND! THAT ONLY HAPPENS WHEN I GET EXCITED --- OR ANGRY!
BY THE WAY, MAY I ASK WHAT YOU WERE DOING ON THIS LONELY STRETCH OF ROAD?
THE PLAIN FACT IS, MISTER--- I DON'T KNOW!
YOU DON'T KNOW?
IT'S THE NUTTIEST THING! I KNOW MY NAME--- I GOT REGISTRATION PAPERS ON THIS PICKUP--- BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT!
LOOKS FROM HERE, FELLA, LIKE WE BOTH GOT PROBLEMS WE GOTTA STRAIGHTEN OUT!
BY THE WAY--- WHAT YEAR IS IT, ANYHOW?
LOS ANG
270 MI
CALIFORNIA
THUS, AS THE BATTERED TRUCK ROLLS NOISILY TOWARDS LOS ANGELES, BRUCE BANNER CAN MOMENTARILY FORGET HIS OWN IMMENSE PROBLEMS---
--- IN THE STRUGGLE TO HELP A FELLOW HUMAN WHO SEEMS TO BE SUFFERING FROM ALMOST TOTAL AMNESIA---!
3.


...THEN YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER A THING, UNTIL A FEW HOURS AGO...
...WHEN YOU FOUND YOURSELF DRIVING DOWN THAT LONELY BACK ROAD?
THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT, BUDDY!

FACT IS, THE MAIN REASON I PICKED YOU UP IS BECAUSE I HAD A HUNCH... I KNEW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE!
BUT, YOU SAY YOU NEVER SAW ME BEFORE, SO I MUST'A BEEN WRONG!
WELL, I KNOW YOU NOW... AND YOU GAVE ME THESE CLOTHES...
SO THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TRY TO HELP!


THEN, A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WELL, ANYWAY, BANNER, NOW WE GOT A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS!
THIS'LL DO TILL YOU CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO REACH THE LADY FRIEND YOU WERE TALKIN' ABOUT!
HOTEL

THANKS, PAL! I'LL PAY YOU BACK... BUT RIGHT NOW I'M FRESH OUT OF CASH!
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I GOT MY MONEY, EITHER!
NOW, WHAT SAY WE GRIT UP?

... LOOK, BRUCE, I KNOW IT AINT NO BUSINESS OF A NOBODY LIKE ME...
BUT DON'T YOU HAVE ANY REAL CLOSE FRIENDS YOU CAN TURN TO?
BEING THE HULK HAS MADE THAT SORT-OF HARD!

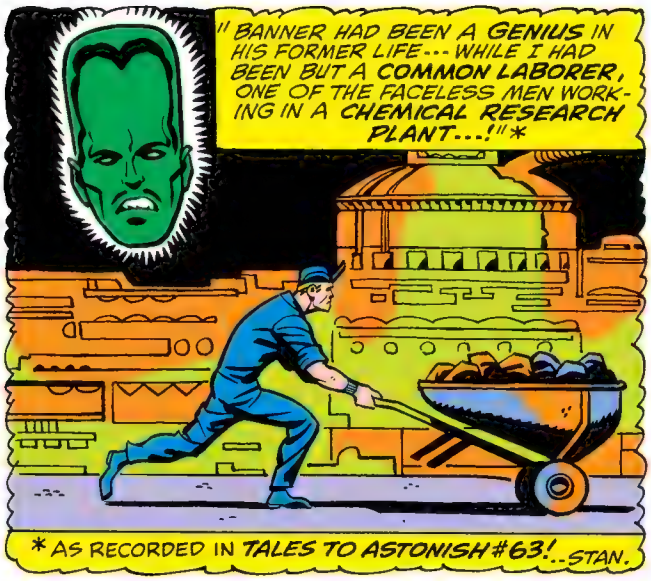
STRANGELY ENOUGH, THE HULK HIMSELF CAME CLOSE TO HAVING A FRIEND ONCE... A GIANT CALLED MOGOL!
BUT HE TURNED OUT TO BE A ROBOT... AND THE HULK DESTROYED HIM!
AND YET.. THERE WAS ALMOST ONE OTHER..!

"--A BIZARRE, INHUMAN GROTESQUERIE YOU MIGHT HAVE CALLED THE GLOB... A SWAMP-BORN MONSTER WHO WAS PROBABLY EVEN STRONGER THAN THE HULK, IF THAT'S POSSIBLE!"
" THEY MET.. AND BATTLED .. IN THE EVERGLADES, UNTIL SPECIAL RADIATION KILLED THE CREATURE!"*
* AS WITNESSED IN THE IMMORTAL ISH #121! --STAN.

THE TWO FRIENDS-OF-THE-ROAD TALK ON, UNTIL SUDDENLY...
UHH... 'SCUZE ME, BRUCE... I..I GOTTA GO..!
HERE, SAM.. LET ME HELP YOU UP TO YOUR ROOM!
JUST GOT THIS... BAD HEADACHE..!
NO! CAN'T GO BACK TO THAT ROOM... I CAN'T!
4

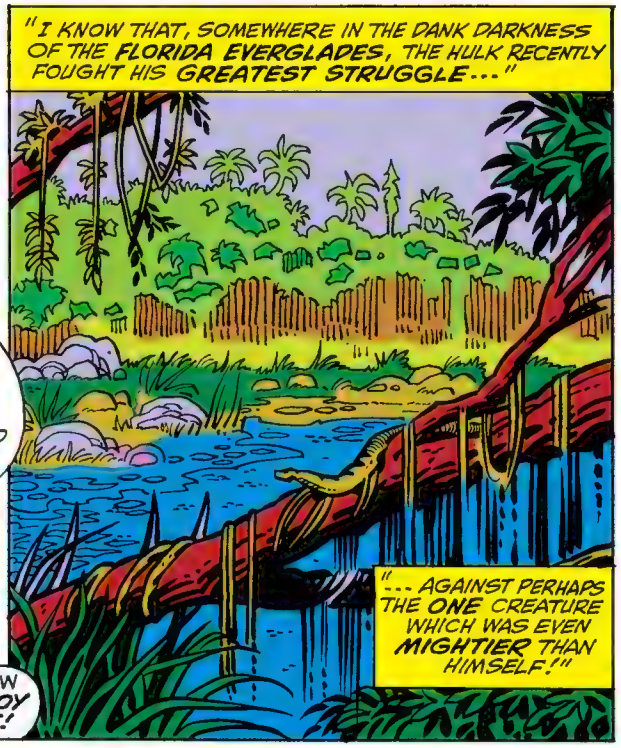
LEAVE ME ALONE, WILL YOU... JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF SANITY..?
YOU CAN HAVE THE ROOM-- I --I GOTTA GO!
CAN'T LET HIM JUST RUN OFF THAT WAY---!
HE'S GONE... PROBABLY DUCKED INTO SOME ALLEY SOMEWHERE!
I SHOULD HAVE RUN AFTER HIM RIGHT AWAY.. INSTEAD OF HESITATING!
BUT... WHY DID HE JUST TEAR OFF LIKE A BAT?
DIDN'T HE KNOW I WANTED TO HELP HIM FIND HIMSELF... JUST AS HE'D HELPED ME?
WELL, IT'S ALL OUT OF MY HANDS NOW!
I'LL HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON KEEPING MYSELF OUT OF THE AUTHORITIES' WAY!
I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!
WHILE, ONLY A FEW SHORT BLOCKS AWAY...
MY HEAD.. IT FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO SPLIT!
WHY SHOULD I BE TORMENTED LIKE THIS? WHY??
THEN, ASTONISHINGLY, A SECOND VOICE FROM WITHIN SAM STERNS GIVES ANSWER...!
ASK RATHER, FOOL, WHY YOU SHOULD NOT BE TORMENTED!
AFTER ALL, OF WHAT EARTHLY GOOD ARE YOU...
... NOW THAT YOU HAVE FULFILLED THE PURPOSE OF...
THE LEADER!
AND NOW, FOR THE BENEFIT OF A PERHAPS PERPLEXED READERSHIP, LET US SEE IF WE CAN DELVE INTO THE MASSIVE MUTANT BRAIN OF THE SINISTER LEADER... AND LEARN THE WHY AND WHEREFORE OF THIS UNHEARD-OF TRANSFORMATION... SO FRAUGHT WITH MENACE FOR THE UNSUSPECTING BRUCE BANNER--!
5.

WE RELIVE ONCE MORE THOSE MOMENTS WHEN AN UNCANNY VESSEL HAD SCANNED THE UNSUSPECTING BRUCE BANNER...
...THEN LANDED SECRETLY NEARBY, TO DISGORGE A VERY UNLIKELY CARGO...!
THIS BATTERED TRUCK WILL SUIT MY PURPOSE WELL!
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLICITY ITSELF TO HAVE BLASTED BRUCE BANNER BACK THERE!
BUT, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO EASY... AND NO REAL VICTORY!
FOR, IT IS THE HULK WHO IS THE MUTANT LIKE MYSELF... WHO HAS FOUGHT ME LONGEST AND HARDEST!
STILL, EVERY CREATURE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH HAS... A FATAL WEAKNESS!
I SHALL LEARN THE HULK'S WEAKNESS... FROM NONE OTHER THAN BRUCE BANNER HIMSELF!
THEN, AND ONLY THEN, SHALL I WREAK MY REVENGE!
AND NOW...
BANNER KNOWS ME AS THE LEADER... HATES ME AS MUCH AS DOES THE HULK!
BUT, HE DOES NOT KNOW OR HATE... THE ONE I WAS... THE ONE I SHALL BECOME AGAIN!
AH... I CAN FEEL IT... I'M CHANGING... TURNING ALL OF MY VAST MUTANT POWER, INWARD... UPON MYSELF!
BUT, THE PAIN... I CAN'T STAND THE PAIN ANY LONGER...!
WAIT! THE PAIN HAS STOPPED NOW!
I'M FREE... FREE TO DO... WHATEVER I WANT TO DO!
THE ONLY THING IS... WHAT DO I WANT TO DO?
I CAN REMEMBER MY NAME... THAT I'M SAM STERNS... JUST ANOTHER WORKER!
BUT WHAT AM I DOING HERE... IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BOONDOCKS?
GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE... FIND OUT WHO I AM... I MUST!
...YES, MY PLAN HAD WORKED, ONLY TOO WELL!
I HAD RECALLED THAT I HAD ANOTHER IDENTITY... JUST AS THE HULK HAD ONCE BEEN DR. BRUCE BANNER!
BUT, IN MY ELATION, I FORGOT ONE ALL-IMPORTANT FACTOR...!
6


"BANNER HAD BEEN A GENIUS IN HIS FORMER LIFE--- WHILE I HAD BEEN BUT A COMMON LABORER, ONE OF THE FACELESS MEN WORKING IN A CHEMICAL RESEARCH PLANT...!"*
*AS RECORDED IN TALES TO ASTONISH #63!..STAN.

"TRUE, A FREAK EXPLOSION BOMBARDED ME WITH MYSTERIOUS GAMMA RAYS... THE SAME FORCE WHICH HAD TURNED BANNER INTO THE STEEL-MUSCLED HULK!"

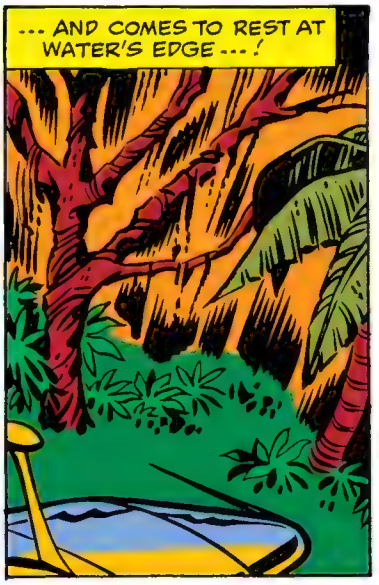
AND IT WAS THOSE RAYS WHICH HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO THE LEADER... POSSESSOR OF A BRAIN AS MATCHLESS AS THE HULK'S BRAWN!
YET, WHEN I BECAME SAM STERNS ONCE MORE, HIS PUNY MIND COULD NOT CONTAIN ALL THE EVIL WHICH LURKS WITHIN THE BRAIN OF THE LEADER!
THUS, SAM STERNS BECAME --- THE VICTIM OF SELECTIVE AMNESIA!
STILL, MY POWERFUL SUPER-EGO WAS ABLE TO GUIDE STERNS... UNTIL HE BUNGLINGLY LEARNED WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW!
THEN, IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO INDUCE A HEADACHE...AND RE-POSSESS HIS BODY WE SHARE!
AND NOW, I KNOW ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE HULK---AT LAST!

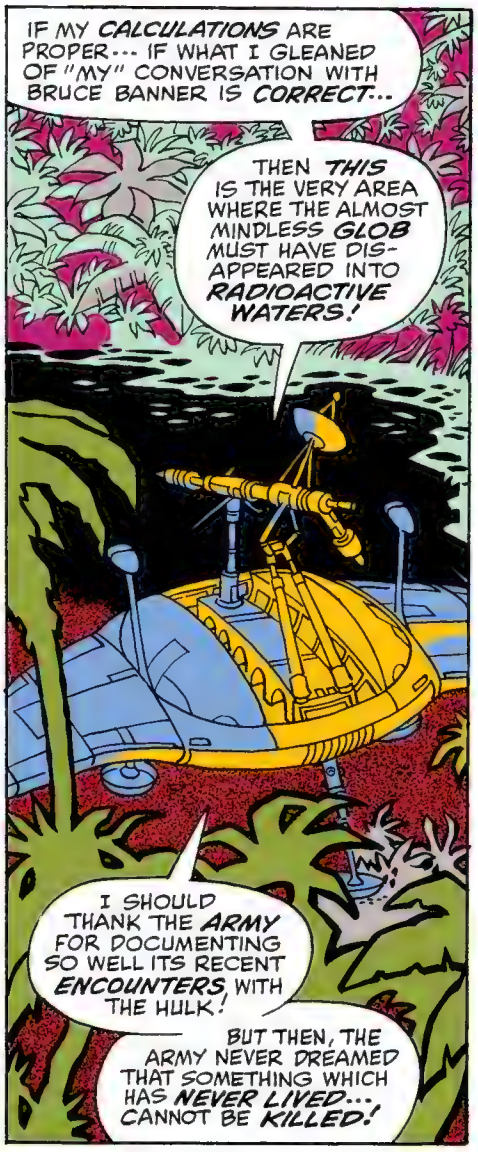

"I KNOW THAT, SOMEWHERE IN THE DANK DARKNESS OF THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES, THE HULK RECENTLY FOUGHT HIS GREATEST STRUGGLE..."
"...AGAINST PERHAPS THE ONE CREATURE WHICH WAS EVEN MIGHTIER THAN HIMSELF!"

"IF MY SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT, THE UNIQUE CONDITIONS WHICH SEEM TO HAVE PRODUCED THE GLOB CAN BE RE-CREATED..."
"...AND, IF SO, THEN THE GLOB SHALL KILL THE HULK... FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF THE LEADER!"

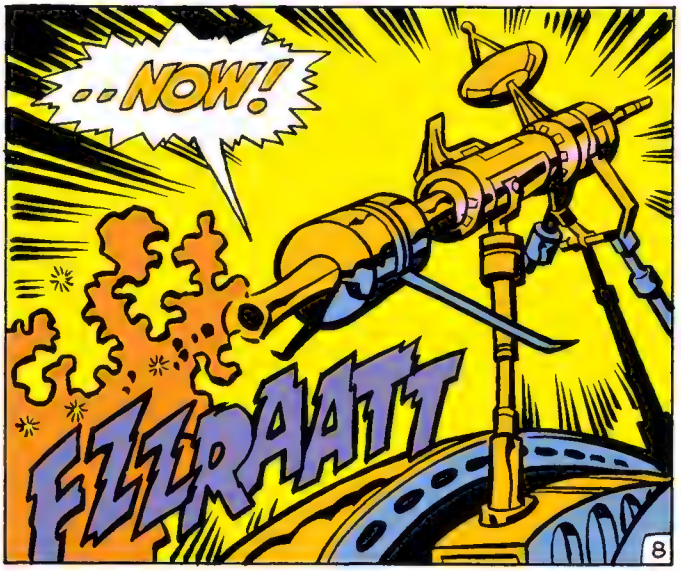
AND SO, NOT LONG AFTERWARD, AN EERIE SHADOW IS CAST AT HIGH NOON UPON THE FACE OF THE SILENT EVERGLADES---

A METALLIC MANTA-RAY COMES FLOATING DOWN, WITH OMINOUS PURPOSE, FROM THE SEA-BLUE SKY---


--- AND COMES TO REST AT WATER'S EDGE---!


IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE PROPER--- IF WHAT I GLEANED OF "MY" CONVERSATION WITH BRUCE BANNER IS CORRECT...
THEN THIS IS THE VERY AREA WHERE THE ALMOST MINDLESS GLOB MUST HAVE DISAPPEARED INTO RADIOACTIVE WATERS!
I SHOULD THANK THE ARMY FOR DOCUMENTING SO WELL ITS RECENT ENCOUNTERS WITH THE HULK!
BUT THEN, THE ARMY NEVER DREAMED THAT SOMETHING WHICH HAS NEVER LIVED--- CANNOT BE KILLED!

AGAIN AND AGAIN, MY SUPERIOR INTELLECT HAS SUFFERED HUMILIATING DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THAT GREEN-SKINNED FOOL!
BUT, THE MONTHS OF WAITING--- THE LONG, TIRELESS HOURS OF PLANNING--- SHALL BEAR FRUITION---


--NOW!
FZZRAATT

THEN, BELOW THE PLACID *SURFACE* OF THE SEEMINGLY STAGNANT SWAMP--- IN THAT MICRO-COSMIC WORLD WHICH NONE BUT THE MOST POWERFUL *MICROSCOPE* MAY HOPE TO SEE---

--- SMALL, LONG-DORMANT PARTICLES *COMBINE* WITH EACH OTHER--- BUILD INTO LARGER, EVER MORE *COMPLEX* FORMS---

UNTIL ---

THE SWAMP *SEETHES*, LIKE A *THING ALIVE!*

THE MOMENT OF *FINAL TRIUMPH* IS AT HAND!

ZZZZZZZZ

AND, THE NEXT HEART-STOPPING MOMENT, A MASSIVE MISSHAPEN *FORM* RISES SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, FROM THE BRACKISH WATERS--- AS THAT WHICH *NEVER LIVED*--- *LIVES AGAIN!!*

THE *GLOB!*

THE PERFECT, THE *IDEAL* ALLY--- THE *LIVING INSTRUMENT* OF MY VENGEANCE---

THE *RHINO* ALMOST CAUSED MY *DOOM*--- BY REBELLING, AND CAUSING AN EXPLOSION ONLY MY *MUTANT POWERS* COULD NULLIFY!

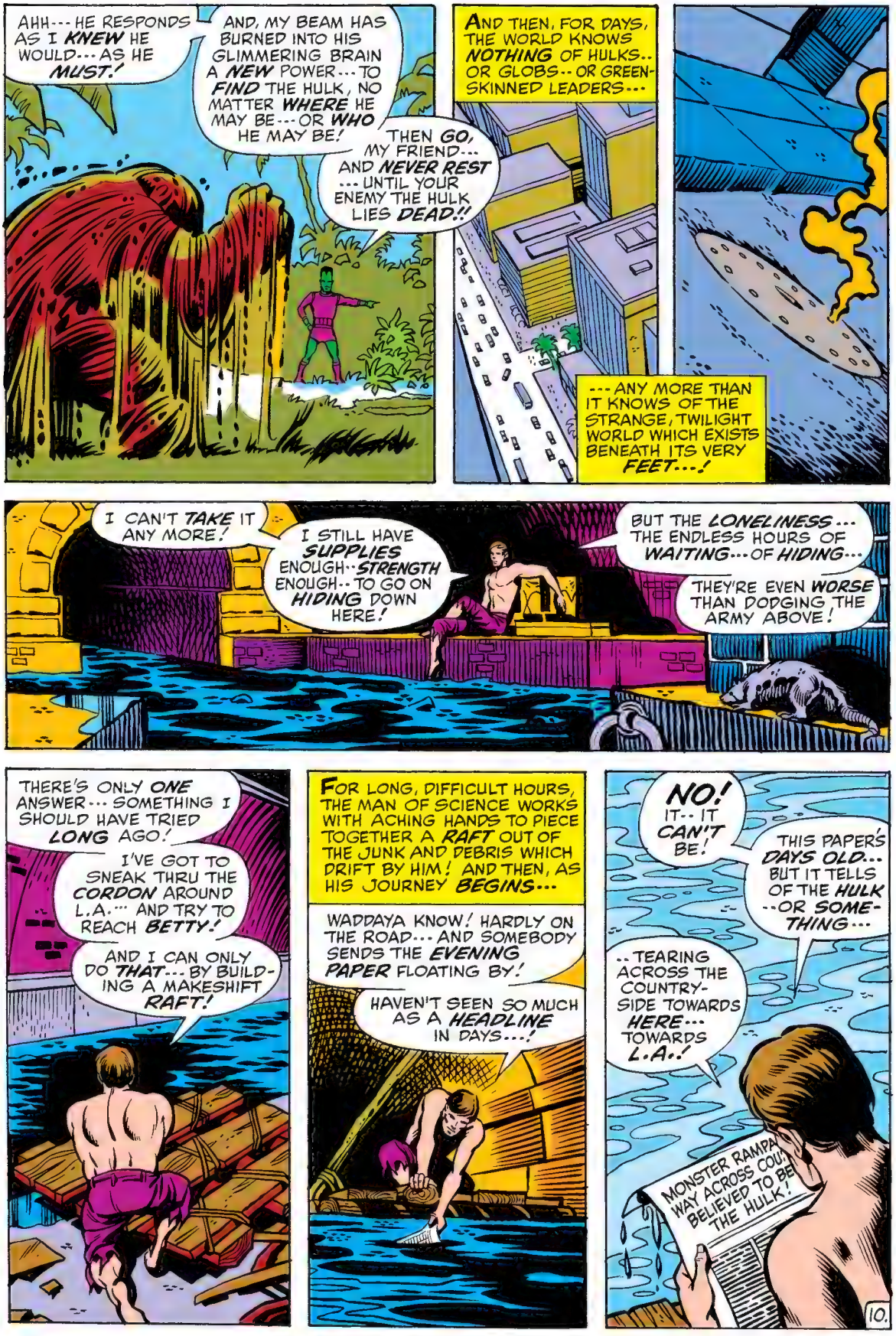
BUT *THIS* TIME--- THERE SHALL BE *NO* REBELLION!

LISTEN, VOICELESS MONSTROSITY--- AS YOU STAND THERE AMIDST THE *MIRE* AND *CONFUSION!*

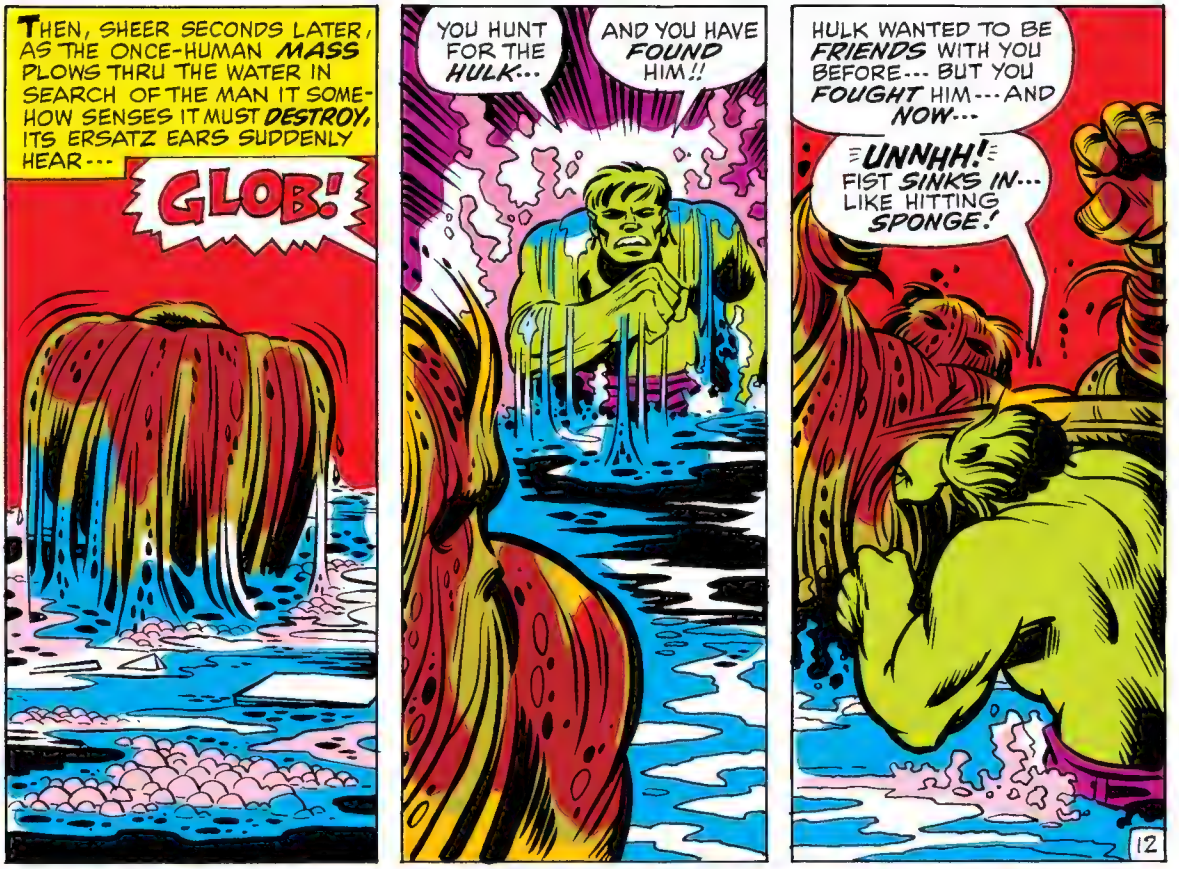
SEE THE *IMAGE* WHICH THE LEADER BURNS INTO YOUR *BRAIN* SUCH AS IT IS!

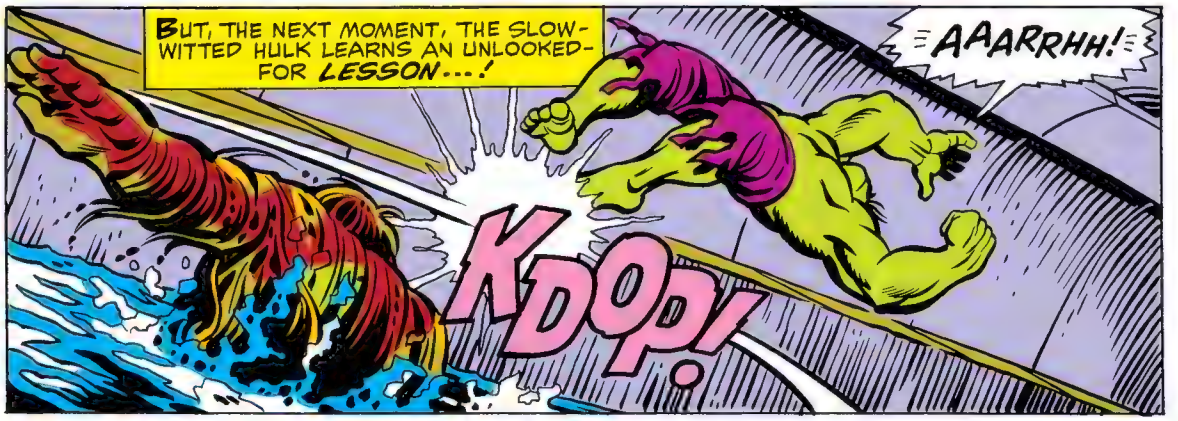
SEE THE HATED FIGURE OF THE *HULK*--- HOLDING THE *GIRL* YOU SOUGHT ACROSS THE SWAMP--- THE GIRL YOU HAD RESISTED *DEATH* ITSELF TO RESCUE!

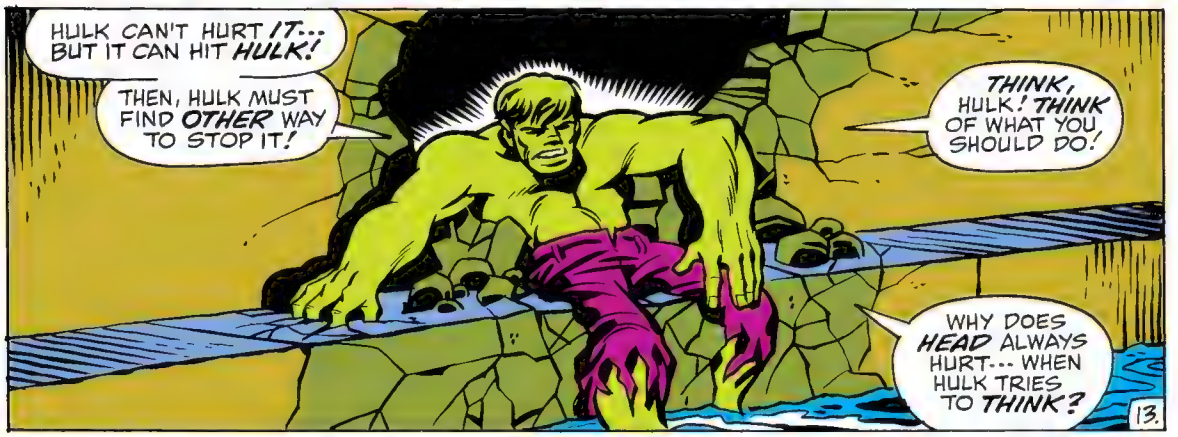
THE HULK *MENACES* THE GIRL, MY FRIEND--- AND ONLY *YOU* CAN *SAVE* HER!

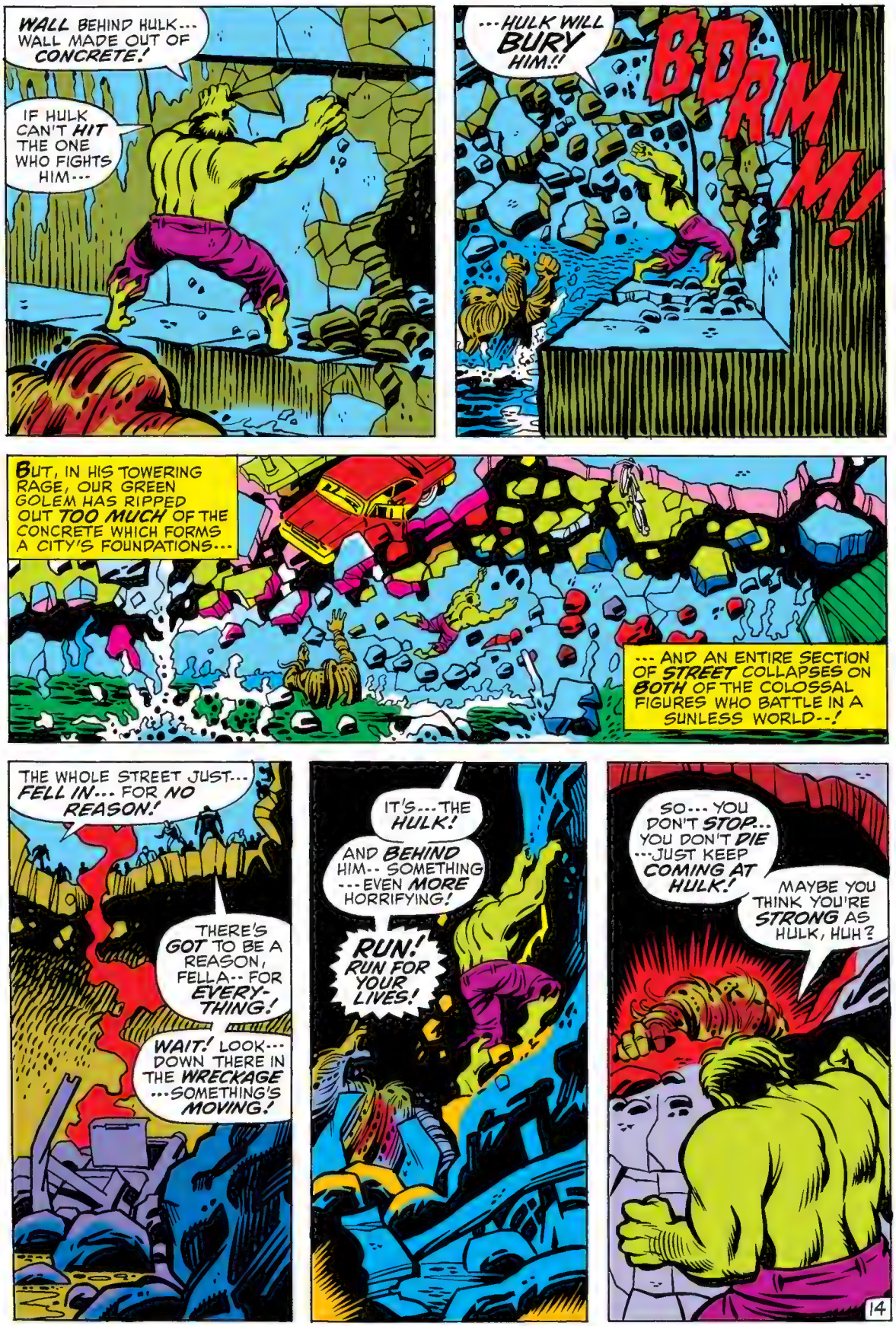

AHH--- HE RESPONDS AS I KNEW HE WOULD--- AS HE MUST.!
AND, MY BEAM HAS BURNED INTO HIS GLIMMERING BRAIN A NEW POWER--- TO FIND THE HULK, NO MATTER WHERE HE MAY BE--- OR WHO HE MAY BE!
THEN GO, MY FRIEND--- AND NEVER REST --- UNTIL YOUR ENEMY THE HULK LIES DEAD!!
AND THEN, FOR DAYS, THE WORLD KNOWS NOTHING OF HULKS.. OR GLOBS.. OR GREEN-SKINNED LEADERS---
--- ANY MORE THAN IT KNOWS OF THE STRANGE, TWILIGHT WORLD WHICH EXISTS BENEATH ITS VERY FEET---!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE!
I STILL HAVE SUPPLIES ENOUGH.. STRENGTH ENOUGH.. TO GO ON HIDING DOWN HERE!
BUT THE LONELINESS... THE ENDLESS HOURS OF WAITING--- OF HIDING...
THEY'RE EVEN WORSE THAN DODGING THE ARMY ABOVE!
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER--- SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE TRIED LONG AGO!
I'VE GOT TO SNEAK THRU THE CORDON AROUND L.A.--- AND TRY TO REACH BETTY!
AND I CAN ONLY DO THAT--- BY BUILDING A MAKESHIFT RAFT!
FOR LONG, DIFFICULT HOURS, THE MAN OF SCIENCE WORKS WITH ACHING HANDS TO PIECE TOGETHER A RAFT OUT OF THE JUNK AND DEBRIS WHICH DRIFT BY HIM! AND THEN, AS HIS JOURNEY BEGINS---
WADDAYA KNOW! HARDLY ON THE ROAD--- AND SOMEBODY SENDS THE EVENING PAPER FLOATING BY!
HAVEN'T SEEN SO MUCH AS A HEADLINE IN DAYS---!
NO! IT.. IT CAN'T BE!
THIS PAPER'S DAYS OLD... BUT IT TELLS OF THE HULK --OR SOMETHING---
..TEARING ACROSS THE COUNTRY-SIDE TOWARDS HERE--- TOWARDS L.A.!
MONSTER RAMPAGE WAY ACROSS COUNTRY BELIEVED TO BE THE HULK!
10.

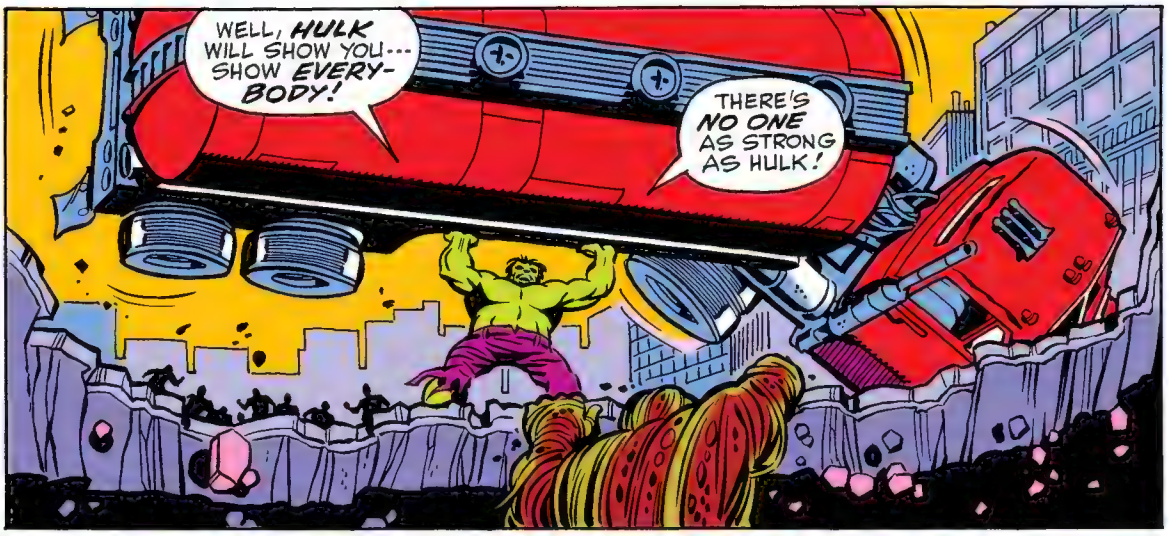
AND WORSE... WHAT IT UNKNOWINGLY HINTS AT IS TOO AMAZING, TOO HORRIBLE TO BE BELIEVED!
EYEWITNESSES DESCRIBE A GREAT, SHAMBLING CREATURE --- HUMAN IN FORM, BUT MONSTROUS IN SIZE --- SMASHING HIS WAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY-SIDE BY NIGHT!
THE FIRST REPORT OF THE BEHEMOTH WAS IN FLORIDA... ON THE VERY EDGE OF THE EVERGLADES THEM-SELVES!
YET, IF THAT'S TRUE --THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING IT COULD BE... ONE MARAUD-ING MONSTROSITY!
THE GLOB!
SPLOOONSH!
THRAK!
IT CAN'T BE A MERE COINCIDENCE THAT THAT MONSTER IS HERE... IT CAN'T BE!
IT'S COME HERE LOOKING FOR THE HULK... TO WREAK SOME WEIRD, WARPED VENGEANCE THAT ONLY IT CAN UNDERSTAND!
ITS BLOW BARELY MISSED ME-- MAKING MY HEART POUND---MY PULSE POUND LIKE MAD!
AND THAT CAN MEAN... ONLY ONE THING...!


THEN, SHEER SECONDS LATER, AS THE ONCE-HUMAN MASS PLOWS THRU THE WATER IN SEARCH OF THE MAN IT SOMEHOW SENSES IT MUST DESTROY, ITS ERSATZ EARS SUDDENLY HEAR---
GLOB!
YOU HUNT FOR THE HULK...
AND YOU HAVE FOUND HIM!!
HULK WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU BEFORE--- BUT YOU FOUGHT HIM--- AND NOW---
UNNHH! FIST SINKS IN--- LIKE HITTING SPONGE!
12


BUT, THE NEXT MOMENT, THE SLOW-WITTED HULK LEARNS AN UNLOOKED-FOR LESSON---!
AAARRHH!
KDOP!


HULK CAN'T HURT IT... BUT IT CAN HIT HULK!
THEN, HULK MUST FIND OTHER WAY TO STOP IT!
THINK, HULK! THINK OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO!
WHY DOES HEAD ALWAYS HURT--- WHEN HULK TRIES TO THINK?
13.


WALL BEHIND HULK... WALL MADE OUT OF CONCRETE!
IF HULK CAN'T HIT THE ONE WHO FIGHTS HIM...
...HULK WILL BURY HIM!!
BDRMM!
BUT, IN HIS TOWERING RAGE, OUR GREEN GOLEM HAS RIPPED OUT TOO MUCH OF THE CONCRETE WHICH FORMS A CITY'S FOUNDATIONS...
...AND AN ENTIRE SECTION OF STREET COLLAPSES ON BOTH OF THE COLOSSAL FIGURES WHO BATTLE IN A SUNLESS WORLD--!
THE WHOLE STREET JUST... FELL IN... FOR NO REASON!
THERE'S GOT TO BE A REASON, FELLA-- FOR EVERY-THING!
WAIT! LOOK... DOWN THERE IN THE WRECKAGE ...SOMETHING'S MOVING!
IT'S... THE HULK!
AND BEHIND HIM-- SOMETHING ...EVEN MORE HORRIFYING!
RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
SO... YOU DON'T STOP... YOU DON'T DIE ...JUST KEEP COMING AT HULK!
MAYBE YOU THINK YOU'RE STRONG AS HULK, HUH?


WELL, HULK WILL SHOW YOU--- SHOW EVERY-BODY!
THERE'S NO ONE AS STRONG AS HULK!

NO ONE!!
SHROOOSH!

FIRE! THE TRUCK MADE EVERYTHING CATCH ON FIRE!
HULK DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT--TO BURN UP EVERYTHING---
BUT HE MADE HULK DO IT!

WISH HE HAD SAID SOMETHING --- TALKED TO HULK!
OTHER ONE DIDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT WITH HULK---NOT EVER!
HIM AND HULK SO MUCH ALIKE---
KKKRAAAKK
--SO MUCH ALIKE--!

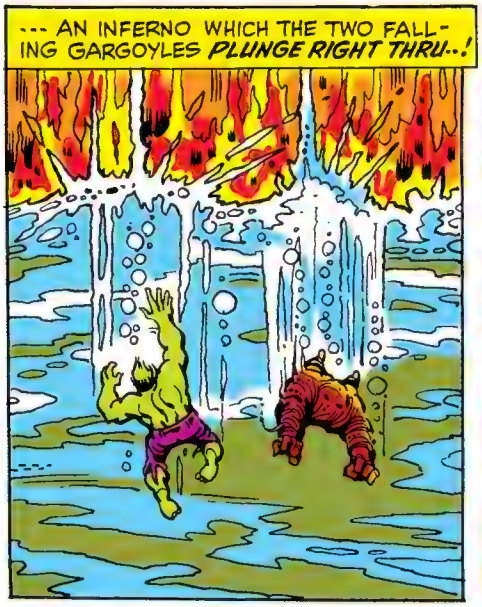
HULK DOESN'T TALK MUCH--- OTHER ONE DIDN'T TALK AT ALL!
WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TALK---JUST BE TOGETHER--- SMASH ANYBODY WHO TRIED TO HURT US!
BUT NOW--- OTHER ONE IS DEAD--- GONE IN FIRE--- FOREVER!
"THAT'S IT, GLOB--- GRAB HIM FROM BEHIND WHILE HE'S GRUNTING LIKE A SAVAGE! YOU CANNOT HEAR ME, GLOB--- BUT YOU'RE DOING MY WORK--!"
WHAT--?
FIRE DIDN'T BURN HIM--- HE GOT AWAY FROM IT!
BUT, FIRE MIGHT HURT HULK--- MUST GET LOOSE!
CAN'T SEEM TO HIT HIM RIGHT--- HURT HIM---
BUT HULK MUST TRY!
THOG!
HULK HURT HIM THAT TIME!
SOME PARTS OF OTHER ONE ARE SOLID--- HULK CAN HIT THEM!
AND, AS LONG AS HULK CAN FIGHT---
16

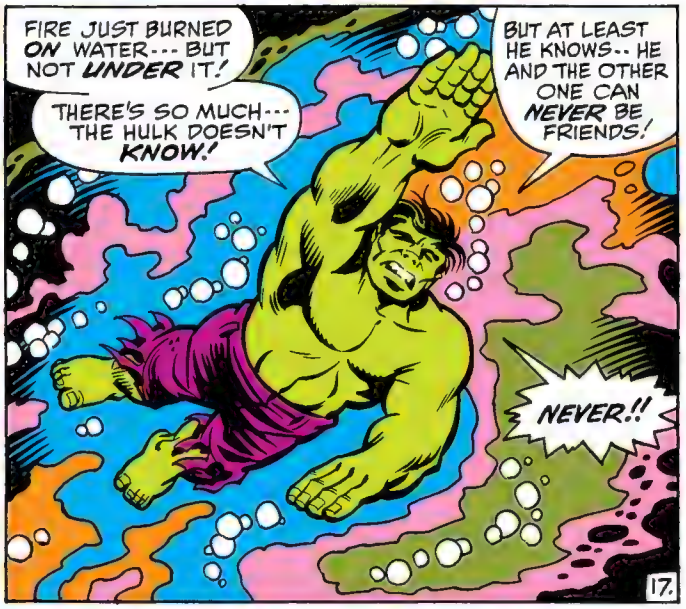
--HULK CAN WIN!
THROOC!

HE'S STUMBLING--- ON EDGE OF FIRE--- GOING TO FALL IN!
WHY ISN'T HULK HAPPY? WHY DOES HE STILL THINK OF OTHER ONE AS--- FRIEND?
HERE---TAKE HULK'S HAND--- SO YOU WON'T FALL--!

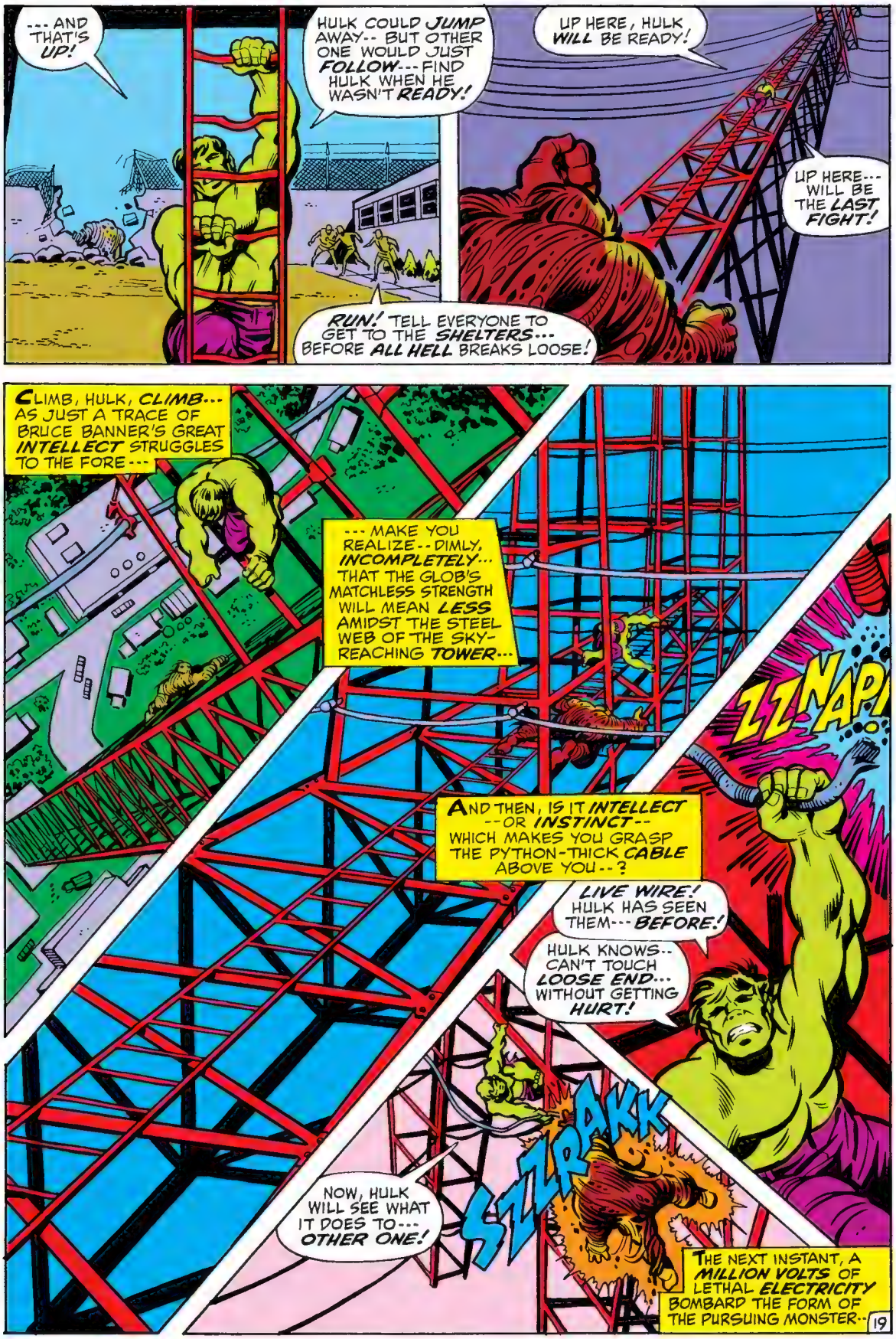
THEN, AS HIS TORTURED MIND REACTS TO AN EMOTION HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND--- THE NEED FOR CONTACT, FOR COMMUNICATION WITH SOME BEING LIKE HIMSELF---THE GREEN GOLIATH REACHES OUT---

--AND INSTANTANEOUSLY REGRETS HIS ACTION--!
HE PULLED HULK--INTO FIRE WITH HIM--!
FOR, THE GLOB NOW KNOWS NO EMOTION---EXCEPT THE DESIRE FOR REVENGE, WHICH RAGES HOT AS THE BLAZING OIL BELOW--!


---AN INFERNO WHICH THE TWO FALLING GARGOYLES PLUNGE RIGHT THRU--!


FIRE JUST BURNED ON WATER---BUT NOT UNDER IT!
THERE'S SO MUCH--- THE HULK DOESN'T KNOW!
BUT AT LEAST HE KNOWS--HE AND THE OTHER ONE CAN NEVER BE FRIENDS!
NEVER!!

STILL, HULK DOESN'T WANT TO HURT THE OTHER ONE--- NOT IF HE DOESN'T HAVE TO!
WE ARE TOO MUCH ALIKE... BOTH UGLY ... BOTH HATED BY HUMANS!
HULK WOULD FEEL LIKE HE WAS HITTING... HIMSELF!
THEN, SINCE OTHER ONE IS GONE... HULK WON'T LOOK FOR HIM!
HULK WILL GO, TOO.. SO WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT ANY MORE!
BUT, AS OUR GREEN-COMPLEXIONED COLOSSUS HIMSELF HAS SAID, THERE IS MUCH THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW OR UNDERSTAND...
...AND ONE SUCH ITEM IS THE FACT THAT THE UNTIRING GLOB CAN TRACK HIM... ANYWHERE.. ANYTIME..!
Edison West EXPERIMENTAL POWER PLANT PLEASE STAND BACK FROM ELECTRIFIED FENCE
NO SIGN OF .. OTHER ONE!
GOOD! THEN HULK CAN...
THWOMP!
THEN, AS THE MIGHTY HULK STAGGERS... STUNNED BY THE SHEER FORCE OF THE UNSUSPECTED BLOW... HE IS LIFTED OVERHEAD...
..TO BE HURLED LIKE THE MEREST RAG DOLL THRU THE DEADLY ELECTRIFIED SECURITY FENCE..!
AKKK!
SO... OTHER ONE WON'T LET HULK ALONE... NO MATTER WHERE HULK GOES!
THEN, ONLY ONE THING FOR HULK TO DO .. ONE PLACE FOR HIM TO GO..!
18


--- AND THAT'S UP!
HULK COULD JUMP AWAY-- BUT OTHER ONE WOULD JUST FOLLOW--- FIND HULK WHEN HE WASN'T READY!
UP HERE, HULK, WILL BE READY!
UP HERE--- WILL BE THE LAST FIGHT!
RUN! TELL EVERYONE TO GET TO THE SHELTERS--- BEFORE ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!
CLIMB, HULK, CLIMB--- AS JUST A TRACE OF BRUCE BANNER'S GREAT INTELLECT STRUGGLES TO THE FORE---
--- MAKE YOU REALIZE--DIMLY, INCOMPLETELY... THAT THE GLOB'S MATCHLESS STRENGTH WILL MEAN LESS AMIDST THE STEEL WEB OF THE SKY-REACHING TOWER...
ZZNAP!
AND THEN, IS IT INTELLECT --OR INSTINCT-- WHICH MAKES YOU GRASP THE PYTHON-THICK CABLE ABOVE YOU--?
LIVE WIRE! HULK HAS SEEN THEM--- BEFORE!
HULK KNOWS-- CAN'T TOUCH LOOSE END... WITHOUT GETTING HURT!
NOW, HULK WILL SEE WHAT IT DOES TO--- OTHER ONE!
SZZRAKK
THE NEXT INSTANT, A MILLION VOLTS OF LETHAL ELECTRICITY BOMBARD THE FORM OF THE PURSUING MONSTER--

---AND HE *FALLS*---

-- SMASHING HEADLONG INTO THE CONCRETE-BLOCK BUILDING AT THE *FOOT* OF THE METAL TOWER-- THE STRUCTURE WHICH HOUSES A DOZEN DELICATE, EXPERIMENTAL *DYNAMOS* AND WHICH WAS NOT DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND THE SHATTERING IMPACT OF THE HURTLING, TON-HEAVY *GLOB*--!

THE *RESULT*... A DEADLY THUNDER-CLAP OF AN *EXPLOSION*, WHICH RIPS ASUNDER A NETWORK OF TOWERS AS IF THEY WERE A CHILD'S *MATCH-STICK TOYS*---

-- AND HURLS ALOFT THE MASSIVE *HULK*--- ALIVE BUT STUNNED--- AS IF HE WERE BUT A FRAIL GREEN *LEAF*--!

THE HULK WAS *OUTSIDE* THE CENTER OF THE BLAST--- AND HE STILL *LIVES*!

FOR ALL MY *CLEVER-NESS*--- FOR ALL MY CAREFUL *PLANNING*---

I HAVE *FAILED* ONCE MORE!!

BUT, WHAT OF THE SWAMP-SPAWNED *GLOB*??

FEW MEN NOTICE THE SMALL, SLIMY *PARTICLES* WHICH RAIN FOR MILES AROUND UPON THE VERDANT COUNTRYSIDE---!

EVEN THOSE WHICH FALL UPON THE SURROUNDING *SUBURBS* ARE AT MOST LOOKED UPON AS LOATHSOME BUT LIFELESS *SLUGS*---!

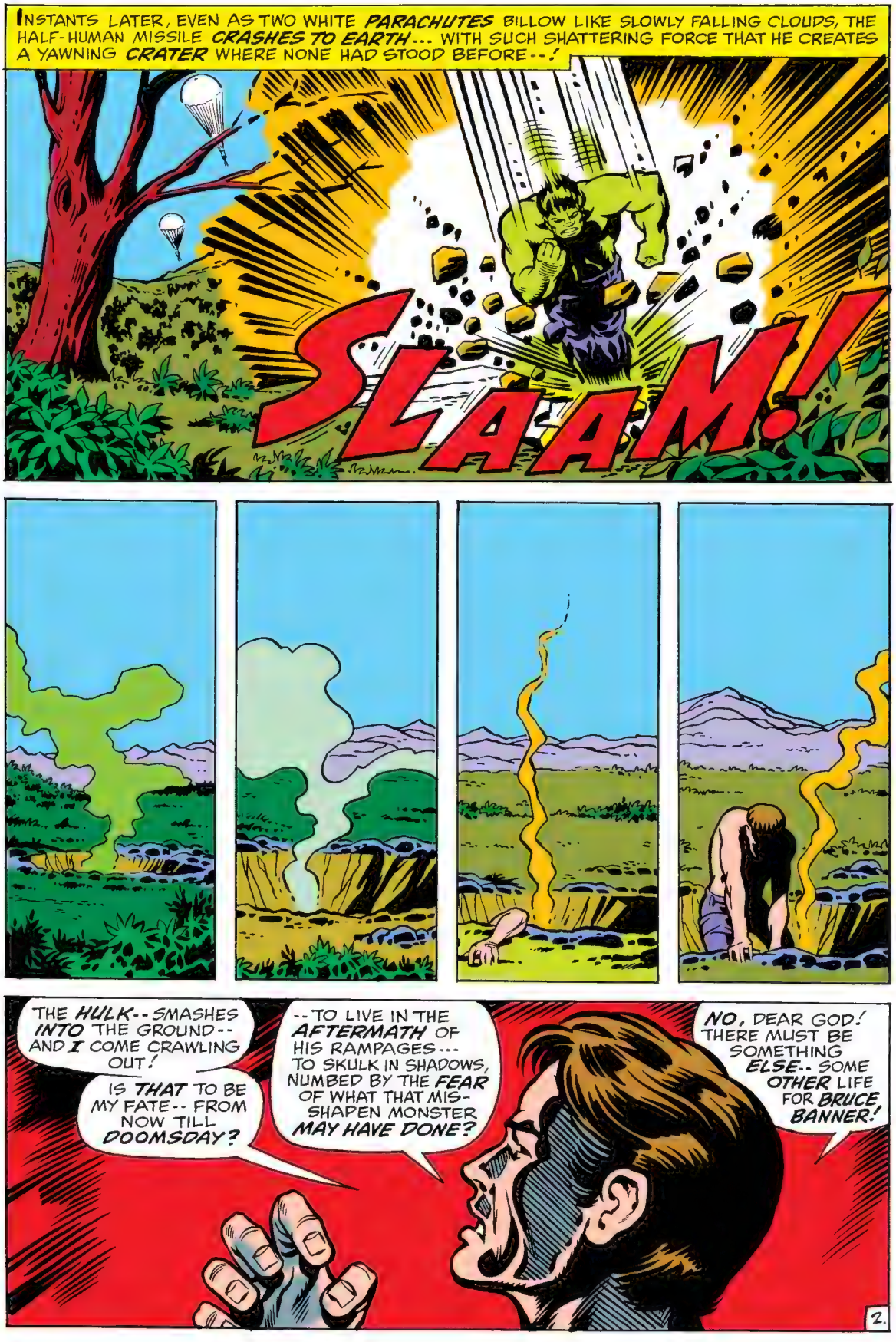
AND BESIDES, IT IS *DAYS* BEFORE THE FIRST TWO OF THE PARTICLES *MOVE*--- AND WRIGGLE TOWARDS EACH OTHER WITH A MINDLESS *PURPOSE*---

...FOR, ONE DAY LONG HENCE, *ALL* THE PARTICLES SHALL AGAIN BE AS *ONE*---AND ONE WHO NEVER TRULY LIVED SHALL *WALK THE EARTH ANEW*---!

AND IN THAT HOUR--- *LET ALL MANKIND BEWARE!!*

INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
130
AUG
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
A NIGHTMARE COMES TRUE! BRUCE BANNER AT THE MERCY OF---
THE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THIS IS THE END, BANNER-- YOUR END!
STOP, HULK! STOP! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND-- YOU'RE ME!
IF I KILL YOU... I DIE!
TRIMPE

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
IF I KILL YOU.. I DIE!
LOOK OUT, WORLD!!
FOR A GREEN-SKINNED JUGGERNAUT HURTLES THRU THE SOUTHWESTERN SKY-- HIS PATH A STEEL-SHREDDING SWATH OF DESTRUCTION WHICH LEAVES TWO STUNNED PILOTS ONLY TIME TO CRY OUT---
WHAT IN THE SAM HILL WAS THAT??
FORCE
SKRAAP!
Stan Lee EDITOR
Roy Thomas WRITER
Herb Trimpe ARTIST
SAM ROSEN.. LETTERER


INSTANTS LATER, EVEN AS TWO WHITE PARACHUTES BILLOW LIKE SLOWLY FALLING CLOUDS, THE HALF-HUMAN MISSILE CRASHES TO EARTH... WITH SUCH SHATTERING FORCE THAT HE CREATES A YAWNING CRATER WHERE NONE HAD STOOD BEFORE--!
SLAAM!
THE HULK--SMASHES INTO THE GROUND--AND I COME CRAWLING OUT!
IS THAT TO BE MY FATE--FROM NOW TILL DOOMSDAY?
--TO LIVE IN THE AFTERMATH OF HIS RAMPAGES--- TO SKULK IN SHADOWS, NUMBED BY THE FEAR OF WHAT THAT MIS-SHAPEN MONSTER MAY HAVE DONE?
NO, DEAR GOD! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE.. SOME OTHER LIFE FOR BRUCE BANNER!
2.

AND SOON, AS NIGHT DESCENDS ON THE SOUTHWEST, THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE CONCERNED FOR THE SAFETY OF BRUCE BANNER---

-- NOT TO MENTION THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE BLINDLY DESTRUCTIVE HULK--!

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MAJOR!

IT WAS THE HULK WHO TORE THAT RB-66 IN HALF, ALL RIGHT!

MUST'VE BEEN LEAPING AWAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY, AFTER HE TORE UP THINGS THERE!*

I'VE ORDERED ANOTHER RECON PLANE TO STAND BY, GENERAL ROSS!

US

*AS WITNESSED IN CAPTAIN MARVEL #21, NOW ON SALE! -- STAN.

GOOD MAN, TALBOT! IF EITHER BANNER OR THE HULK IS IN THE AREA, OUR INFRA-RED SCANNERS'LL FIND 'IM, EVEN AT NIGHT!

AND WHEN HE'S FOUND, I WANT HIM KEPT UNDER SURVEIL-LANCE, TILL OUR BOYS CAN MOVE IN!

I'M GOING TO END THE MENACE OF THE HULK-- FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THUS, ONLY MINUTES LATER, A SMALL AND SPECIALLY-EQUIPPED SCOUT CRAFT LIFTS INTO THE SKY FROM THE ARMY BASE---

USAF

-- EVEN AS THE MAN CALLED BRUCE BANNER STARES AT A SIGN WHICH SNAPS HIM OUT OF A GRIM REVERIE---!

DESERT STATE UNIVERSITY! OF COURSE!

THAT'S THE PLACE THE HULK VIRTUALLY TORE APART ONLY A FEW HOURS AGO!

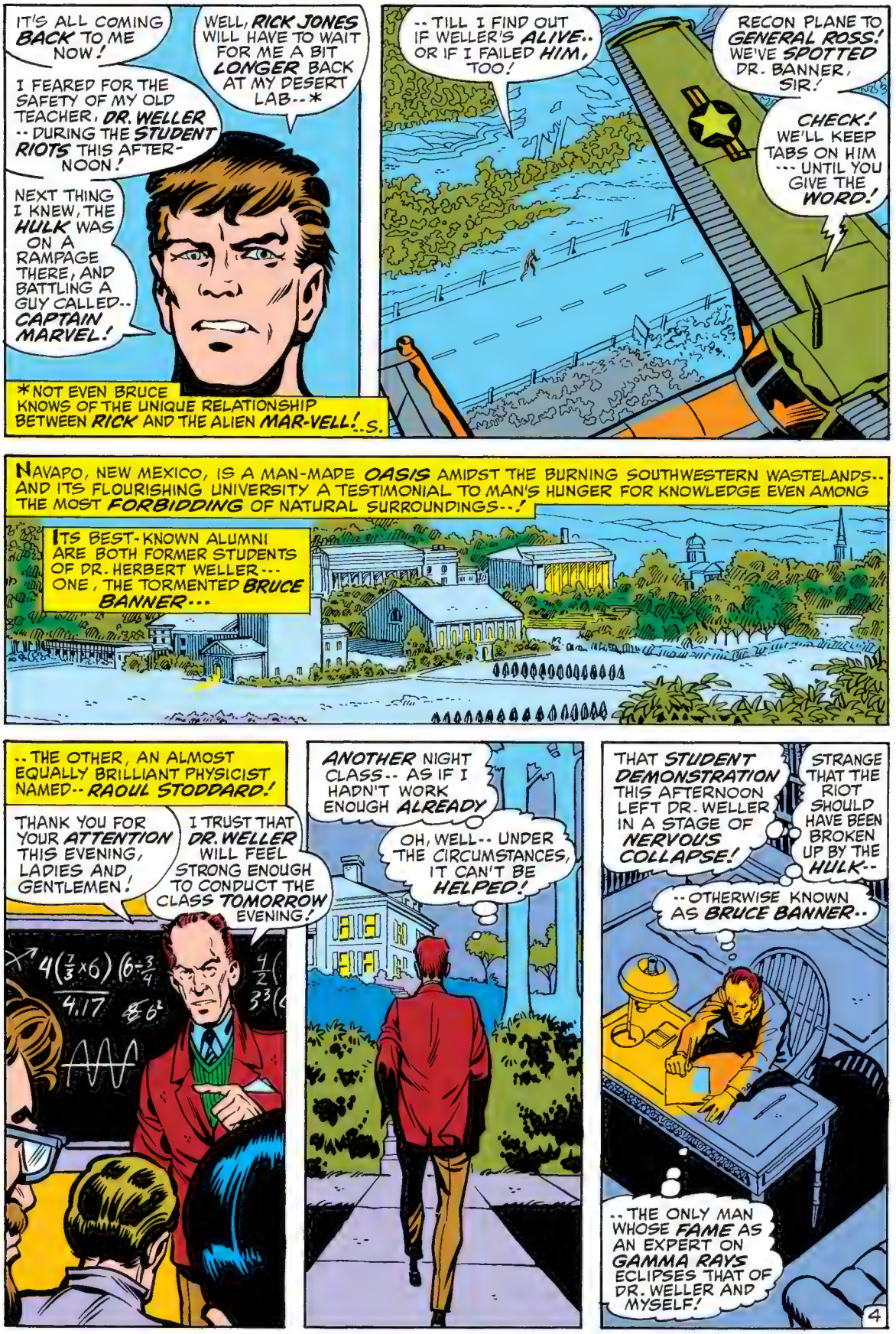
AND IT'S ALSO--- MY OLD ALMA MATER!

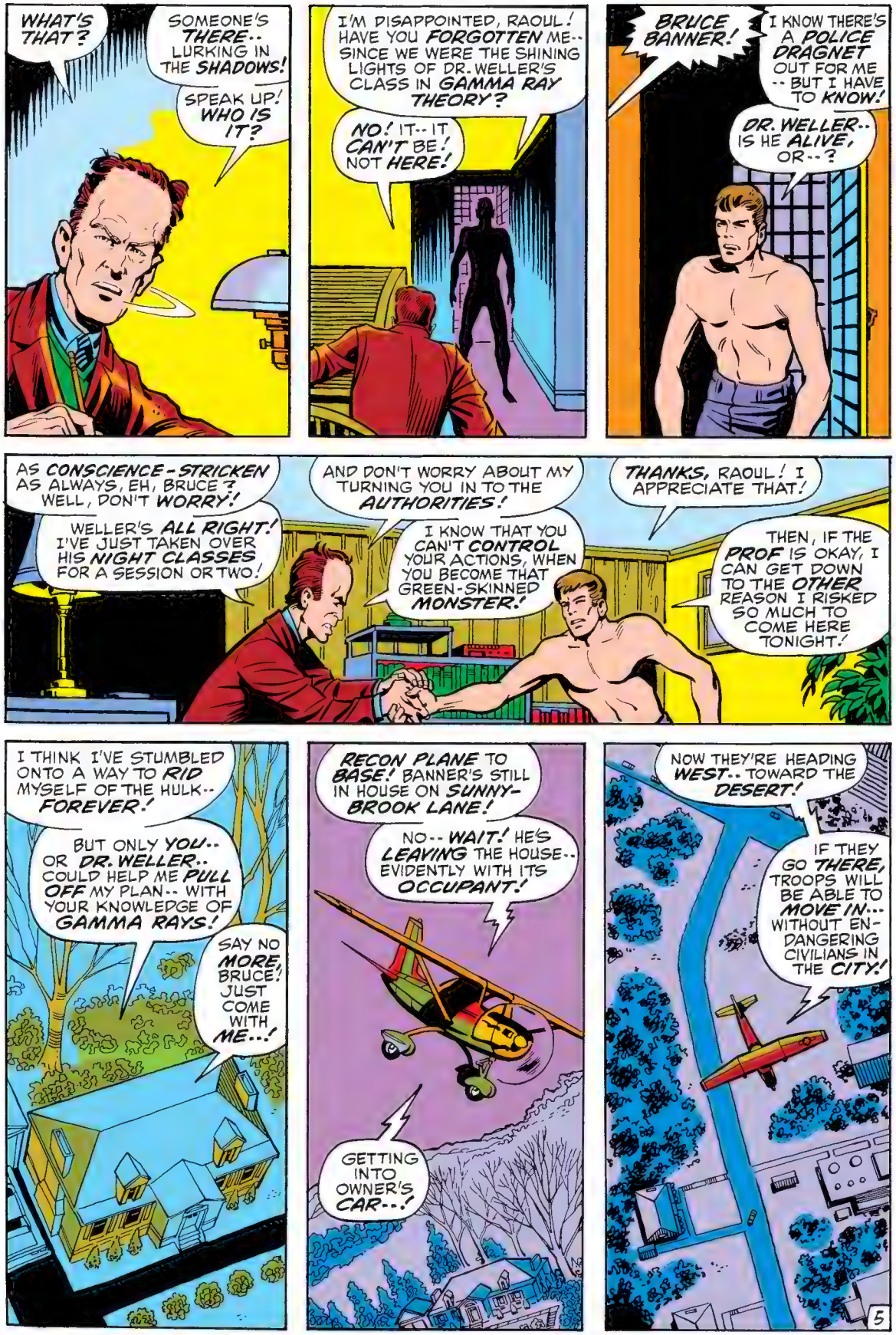
NAVAPO, NEW

HOME OF

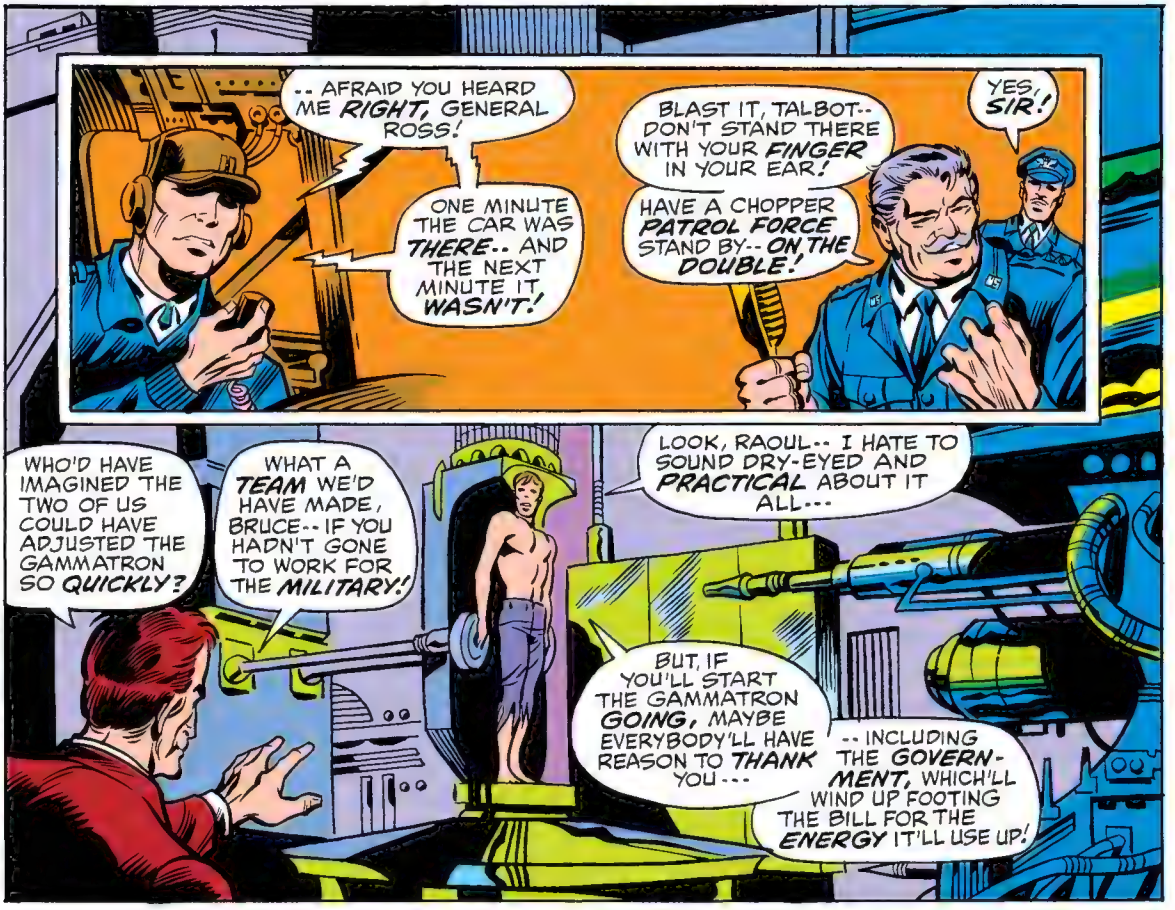
DESERT STATE UN

3 M


IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME NOW!
WELL, RICK JONES WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ME A BIT LONGER BACK AT MY DESERT LAB--*
I FEARED FOR THE SAFETY OF MY OLD TEACHER, DR. WELLER -- DURING THE STUDENT RIOTS THIS AFTERNOON!
NEXT THING I KNEW, THE HULK WAS ON A RAMPAGE THERE, AND BATTLING A GUY CALLED-- CAPTAIN MARVEL!
*NOT EVEN BRUCE KNOWS OF THE UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RICK AND THE ALIEN MAR-VELL!..S.
-- TILL I FIND OUT IF WELLER'S ALIVE.. OR IF I FAILED HIM, TOO!
RECON PLANE TO GENERAL ROSS! WE'VE SPOTTED DR. BANNER, SIR!
CHECK! WE'LL KEEP TABS ON HIM --- UNTIL YOU GIVE THE WORD!
NAVAPO, NEW MEXICO, IS A MAN-MADE OASIS AMIDST THE BURNING SOUTHWESTERN WASTELANDS.. AND ITS FLOURISHING UNIVERSITY A TESTIMONIAL TO MAN'S HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE EVEN AMONG THE MOST FORBIDDING OF NATURAL SURROUNDINGS--!
ITS BEST-KNOWN ALUMNI ARE BOTH FORMER STUDENTS OF DR. HERBERT WELLER --- ONE, THE TORMENTED BRUCE BANNER---
-- THE OTHER, AN ALMOST EQUALLY BRILLIANT PHYSICIST NAMED-- RAOUL STODDARD!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION THIS EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
I TRUST THAT DR. WELLER WILL FEEL STRONG ENOUGH TO CONDUCT THE CLASS TOMORROW EVENING!
ANOTHER NIGHT CLASS-- AS IF I HADN'T WORK ENOUGH ALREADY
OH, WELL-- UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT CAN'T BE HELPED!
THAT STUDENT DEMONSTRATION THIS AFTERNOON LEFT DR. WELLER IN A STAGE OF NERVOUS COLLAPSE!
STRANGE THAT THE RIOT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BROKEN UP BY THE HULK--
-- OTHERWISE KNOWN AS BRUCE BANNER..
-- THE ONLY MAN WHOSE FAME AS AN EXPERT ON GAMMA RAYS ECLIPSES THAT OF DR. WELLER AND MYSELF!
4


WHAT'S THAT?
SOMEONE'S THERE.. LURKING IN THE SHADOWS!
SPEAK UP! WHO IS IT?
I'M DISAPPOINTED, RAOUL! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME-- SINCE WE WERE THE SHINING LIGHTS OF DR. WELLER'S CLASS IN GAMMA RAY THEORY?
NO! IT-- IT CAN'T BE! NOT HERE!
BRUCE BANNER!
I KNOW THERE'S A POLICE DRAGNET OUT FOR ME -- BUT I HAVE TO KNOW!
DR. WELLER.. IS HE ALIVE, OR--?
AS CONSCIENCE-STRICKEN AS ALWAYS, EH, BRUCE? WELL, DON'T WORRY!
WELLER'S ALL RIGHT! I'VE JUST TAKEN OVER HIS NIGHT CLASSES FOR A SESSION OR TWO!
AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY TURNING YOU IN TO THE AUTHORITIES!
I KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR ACTIONS, WHEN YOU BECOME THAT GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER!
THANKS, RAOUL! I APPRECIATE THAT!
THEN, IF THE PROF IS OKAY, I CAN GET DOWN TO THE OTHER REASON I RISKED SO MUCH TO COME HERE TONIGHT!
I THINK I'VE STUMBLED ONTO A WAY TO RID MYSELF OF THE HULK-- FOREVER!
BUT ONLY YOU-- OR DR. WELLER.. COULD HELP ME PULL OFF MY PLAN-- WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF GAMMA RAYS!
SAY NO MORE, BRUCE! JUST COME WITH ME--!
RECON PLANE TO BASE! BANNER'S STILL IN HOUSE ON SUNNYBROOK LANE!
NO-- WAIT! HE'S LEAVING THE HOUSE-- EVIDENTLY WITH ITS OCCUPANT!
GETTING INTO OWNER'S CAR--!
NOW THEY'RE HEADING WEST.. TOWARD THE DESERT!
IF THEY GO THERE, TROOPS WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE IN... WITHOUT ENDANGERING CIVILIANS IN THE CITY!
5

STILL PROCEEDING WEST.. TOWARD MAIN HIGHWAY!
HOLD IT! NOW THEY'RE MAKING A TURN---
..ONTO DIRT ROAD.. BUT STILL TOWARD THE DESERT!
GROVE OF TREES AHEAD! ONCE THEY'RE THRU THAT, THEY'LL BE---
GOOD LORD! I-- I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
THEY DIDN'T COME OUT FROM THAT GROVE! THEY'VE -- VANISHED!!
RAOUL! WE'RE IN-- SOME KIND OF DARK TUNNEL!
BUT.. YOU WERE EXPECTING IT, WEREN'T YOU? THE TUNNEL IS OF YOUR MAKING!
MINE-- AND DR. WELLER'S!
DON'T LOOK AT ME AS IF I'M SOMETHING OUT OF AN OLD KARLOFF THRILLER, BRUCE!
YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH DR. WELLER EVER SINCE MY GRADUATE DAYS!
WE USED PART OF A RATHER LIBERAL GOVERNMENT GRANT TO BUILD THIS PLACE WHERE WE COULD CONTINUE OUR RESEARCH IN PRIVATE!
AWAY FROM EVEN THE GOVERNMENT THAT PAID FOR IT ALL!
AHH-- THE PHOTO-ELECTRIC EYE IS FUNCTIONING PERFECTLY!
IT'S ATTUNED TO MY AUTO'S HEADLIGHTS, YOU KNOW!
QUITE A SET-UP YOU'VE GOT HERE, RAOUL!
DOUBTLESS QUITE PRIMITIVE, COMPARED TO THE LABORATORY WHICH YOU SEEM TO HAVE ESTABLISHED SOMEWHERE IN THE DESERT!
BUT NOW, WE'VE NO MORE TIME TO WASTE ON IDLE CHATTER!
THEN-- YOU HEARD THAT PLANE TOO? THE ONE THAT WAS FOLLOWING US?
THEY MAY BE CONFUSED FOR THE MOMENT-- BUT THEY'LL PICK UP OUR TRAIL AGAIN!
AND BE OFF ONCE MORE, EH, ON THE SCENT OF THE HULK?
BUT BY THAT TIME, MY FRIEND.. IF MY NEW GAMMATRON PROVES AS ADAPTABLE AS I SUSPECT---
THERE SHALL BE NO HULK FOR THEM TO FIND!
ENTER, PLEASE..!
6

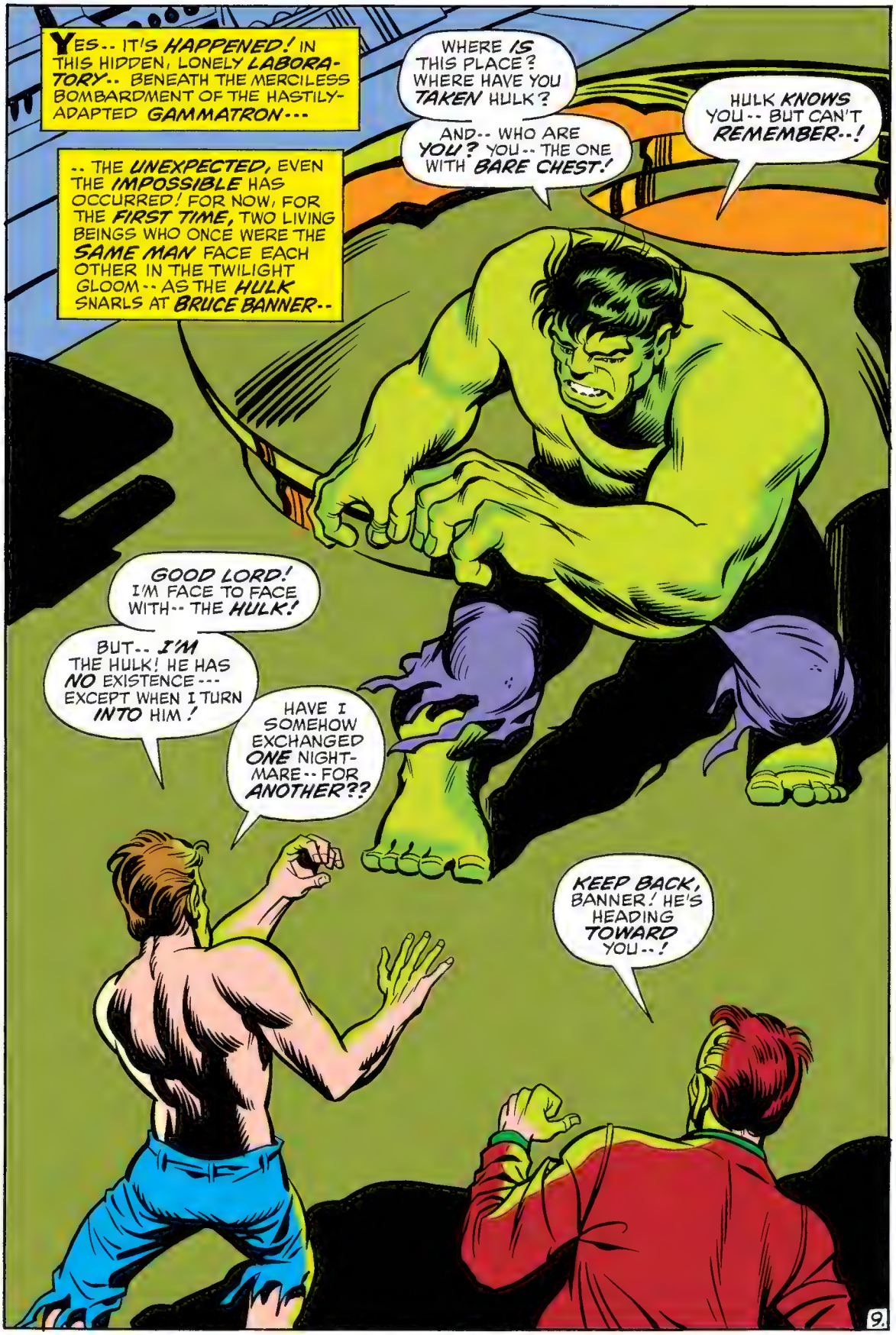

-- AFRAID YOU HEARD ME RIGHT, GENERAL ROSS!
ONE MINUTE THE CAR WAS THERE-- AND THE NEXT MINUTE IT WASN'T!
BLAST IT, TALBOT-- DON'T STAND THERE WITH YOUR FINGER IN YOUR EAR!
HAVE A CHOPPER PATROL FORCE STAND BY-- ON THE DOUBLE!
YES, SIR!
WHO'D HAVE IMAGINED THE TWO OF US COULD HAVE ADJUSTED THE GAMMATRON SO QUICKLY?
WHAT A TEAM WE'D HAVE MADE, BRUCE-- IF YOU HADN'T GONE TO WORK FOR THE MILITARY!
LOOK, RAOUL-- I HATE TO SOUND DRY-EYED AND PRACTICAL ABOUT IT ALL---
BUT, IF YOU'LL START THE GAMMATRON GOING, MAYBE EVERYBODY'LL HAVE REASON TO THANK YOU---
-- INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH'LL WIND UP FOOTING THE BILL FOR THE ENERGY IT'LL USE UP!

YOU'LL HAVE TO PARDON MY PASSING MOMENT OF LEVITY, OLD FRIEND!
BUT NOW, THE TIME HAS COME.. AND MAY THE LORD PROTECT YOU!
FTAK!

FOR AN INSTANT-- SILENCE! AND THEN, AN EVER-LOUDER, INSISTENT HUMMING FILLS THE SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER---

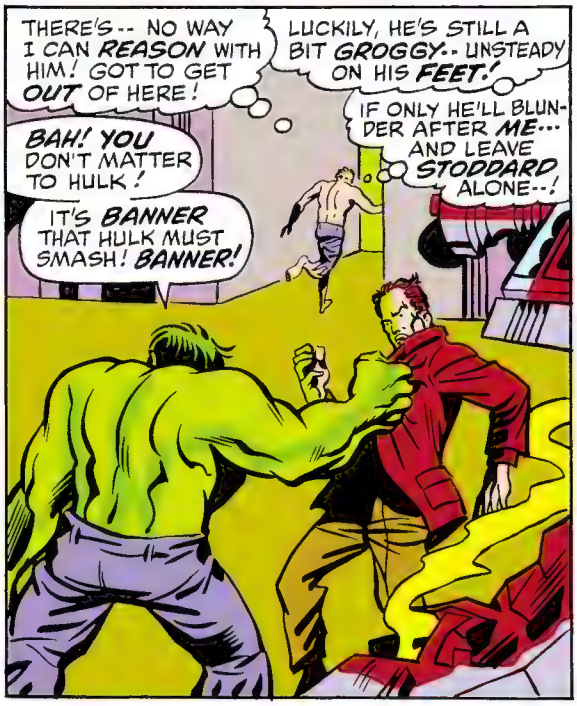
-- FILLS IT TO OVERFLOWING, AS THE GAMMA-GUN PROTOTYPE FIRES ITS HARNESSED RAYS AT THE FRAIL, HUMAN FORM BEFORE IT-- A FORM TO WHICH THINGS SUDDENLY BEGIN TO HAPPEN--!
A FEELING-- LIKE A WIND! BUT-- I'VE FELT THIS FEELING BEFORE..
YES! FELT IT BEFORE.. ON THE NIGHT I BECAME THE HULK!!
MMMMM

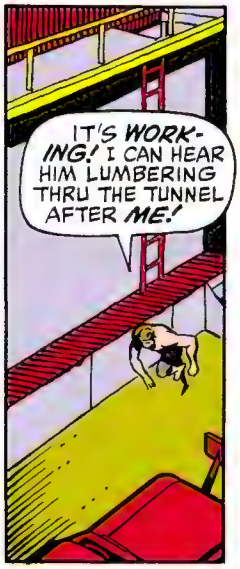
THEN, THE TORTURED VOICE OF BRUCE BANNER IS SILENCED.. AND ONLY THE STEADY, RELENTLESS HUMMING OF THE GAMMATRON IS HEARD IN THE UNDERGROUND LAB--!
RADIATION.. IN DOSES WHICH WOULD DESTROY AN ORDINARY MAN -- PULSES THRU HIS AGONIZED BODY-- UNTIL HE SINKS, EXHAUSTED, TO THE FLOOR--!
THEN, AN ANGUISHED HEAD TURNS.. AND TWO EYES BEHOLD A GREAT, GROTESQUE SHAPE OUTLINED BY THE SEARING GAMMA RAYS-- AND A MOUTH GASPS...
THAT FORM.. THAT HIDEOUS EMPTINESS IN THE MIDST OF THE RAYS...
IT'S THE FORM OF-- THE HULK!! BUT HOW--?
IT'S-- SOME SORT OF UNCANNY SIDE EFFECT OF THE GAMMA BOMBARDMENT!
THE MACHINE WAS ADAPTED TO ISOLATE THAT PART OF YOU THAT BECAME THE HULK--
BUT WHO WOULD HAVE DREAMED.. IT WOULD SOMEHOW PRESERVE HIS PHYSICAL OUTLINE THAT WAY?
AHH -- NOW THAT YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR, BANNER--
I'LL SWITCH OFF THE MACHINE, AND THE IMAGE WILL FADE... FOREVER!
THANK THE LORD!
I NEVER WANT TO SEE THAT HIDEOUS SHAPE AGAIN! NEVER!
BUT-- WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT, MAN? DON'T YOU REALIZE-- I'M FREE! I--
NO.!! IT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE! IT CAN'T.!!
YET-- IT'S HAPPENED, BANNER! SOMEHOW-- -- IT'S HAPPENED!
8

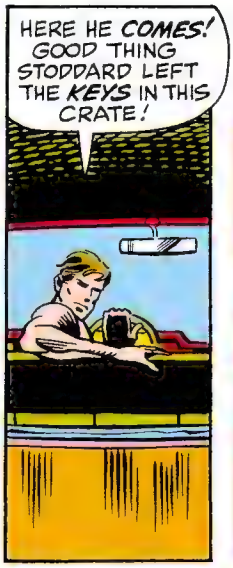

YES-- IT'S HAPPENED! IN THIS HIDDEN, LONELY LABORATORY-- BENEATH THE MERCILESS BOMBARDMENT OF THE HASTILY-ADAPTED GAMMATRON---
-- THE UNEXPECTED, EVEN THE IMPOSSIBLE HAS OCCURRED! FOR NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, TWO LIVING BEINGS WHO ONCE WERE THE SAME MAN FACE EACH OTHER IN THE TWILIGHT GLOOM-- AS THE HULK SNARLS AT BRUCE BANNER--
WHERE IS THIS PLACE? WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN HULK?
AND-- WHO ARE YOU? YOU-- THE ONE WITH BARE CHEST!
HULK KNOWS YOU-- BUT CAN'T REMEMBER--!
GOOD LORD! I'M FACE TO FACE WITH-- THE HULK!
BUT-- I'M THE HULK! HE HAS NO EXISTENCE--- EXCEPT WHEN I TURN INTO HIM!
HAVE I SOMEHOW EXCHANGED ONE NIGHTMARE-- FOR ANOTHER??
KEEP BACK, BANNER! HE'S HEADING TOWARD YOU--!
9.

BANNER! HE CALLED YOU -- BANNER!
THEN -- YOU MUST BE BRUCE BANNER -- THE ONE HULK HATES MOST OF ALL!
DON'T KNOW WHY -- HULK DIDN'T KNOW YOU BEFORE -- BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW --!
IT -- IT DOES MATTER, HULK! YOU DIDN'T KNOW ME -- BECAUSE YOU ARE ME!
WE'RE THE SAME PERSON -- IN TWO DIFFERENT FORMS! WE --

SHUT UP! YOU TRY TO CONFUSE HULK -- MIX HIM UP!
BUT YOU WON'T DO IT AGAIN --- NOT AFTER HULK GETS THRU WITH YOU!
WTAK!


THERE'S -- NO WAY I CAN REASON WITH HIM! GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
LUCKILY, HE'S STILL A BIT GROGGY -- UNSTEADY ON HIS FEET!
IF ONLY HE'LL BLUNDER AFTER ME --- AND LEAVE STODDARD ALONE --!
BAH! YOU DON'T MATTER TO HULK!
IT'S BANNER THAT HULK MUST SMASH! BANNER!


IT'S WORKING! I CAN HEAR HIM LUMBERING THRU THE TUNNEL AFTER ME!


HERE HE COMES! GOOD THING STODDARD LEFT THE KEYS IN THIS CRATE!

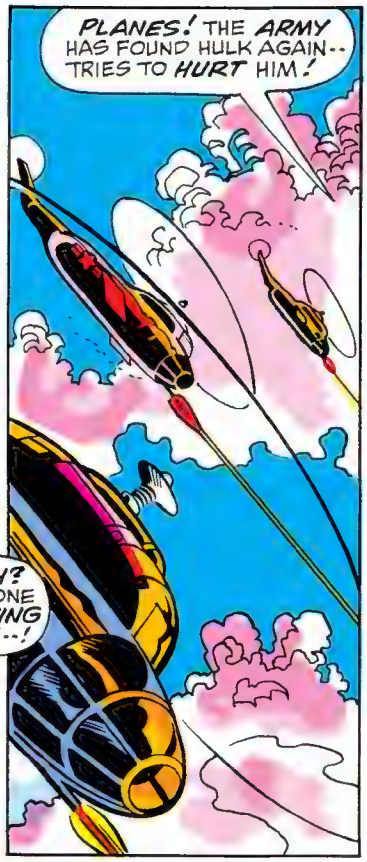
THEN, IF HULK WILL JUST STAY SLOW AND GROGGY FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS...

-- I'LL BE OUT OF THIS TUNNEL ONTO THE OPEN ROAD -- AND --

I MADE IT! I'M SAFE!

BUT NOW-- IT'S FINALLY HITTING ME-- THE ENORMITY OF WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE!
IT WAS JUST A FREAK ACCIDENT--- A MILLION-TO-ONE FLUKE--
BUT IT FREED ME-- AND I'LL NEVER BECOME THE HULK AGAIN!
GOT TO REACH GENERAL ROSS -- TELL HIM ABOUT THIS, SO THAT--
WHAT THE DEVIL?
THE ROAD UP AHEAD--- SOMETHING'S BREAKING THRU IT!
RRRMMBLLL
NO! IT CAN'T BE-- NOT NOW!
I WAS SO CLOSE-- SO CLOSE TO FREEDOM--!
IT'S-- THE HULK!
SO-- YOU THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY FROM HULK-- BUT YOU CAN'T!
YOU KEPT HULK A SLAVE ALL THESE YEARS -- KEPT HIM IN A DARK PRISON!
SKRUTCH!
STOP, HULK! YOU-- DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M YOU!!
IF YOU KILL ME-- YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN!
YOU TRY TO TRICK HULK AS ALWAYS--- WITH WORDS!
BUT YOU'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN-- FOR HULK WILL KILL YOU FIRST!
BUT HULK WON'T LISTEN! HULK WILL SMASH!!
11.

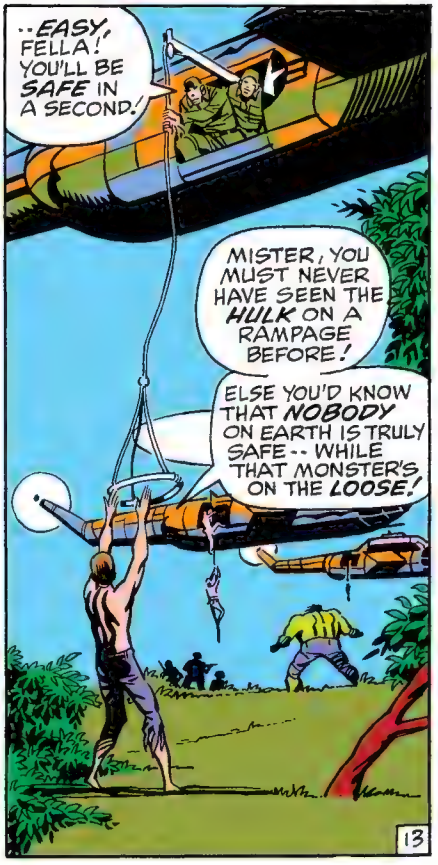
BUT THEN, EVEN AS GARGANTUAN DEATH TOWERS OVER BRUCE BANNER-- EVEN AS THICK, MIGHTY-THEWED ARMS REACH OUT FOR HIM---
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAK
HUH? SOMEONE SHOOTING AT HULK--!

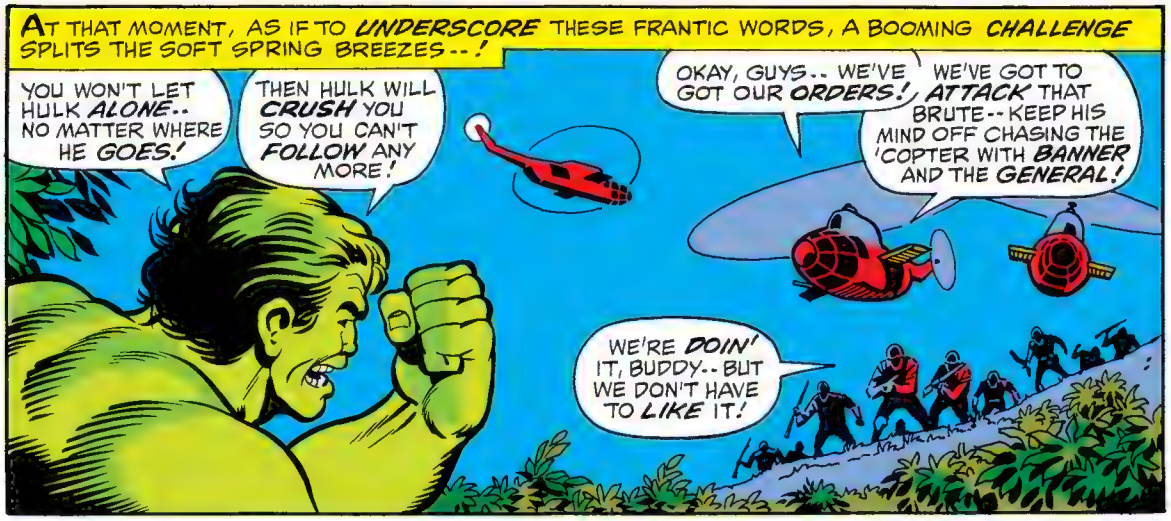

PLANES! THE ARMY HAS FOUND HULK AGAIN-- TRIES TO HURT HIM!

DON'T KNOW HOW THEY FOUND HULK-- BUT IT WON'T DO THEM ANY GOOD!
THEIR PUNY BULLETS WON'T STOP HULK!
HULK WILL FINISH THEM! PLENTY OF TIME THEN TO TAKE CARE OF BANNER!
12.

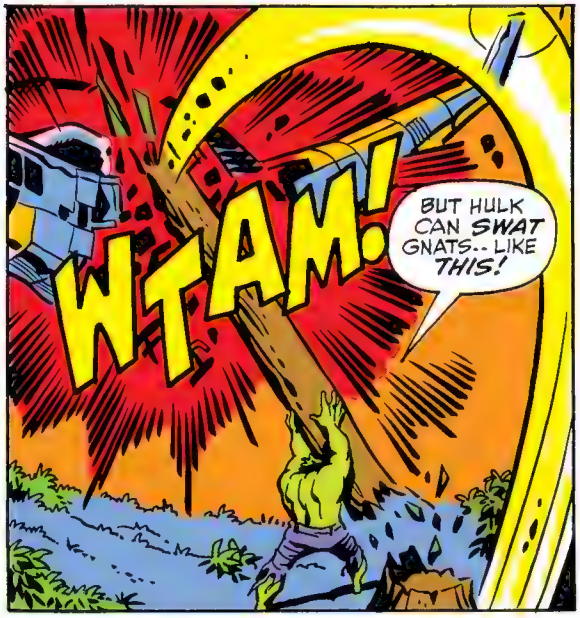
WHILE, IN A CLOSE-FOLLOWING CHOPPER JUST NOW ARRIVING ON THE SCENE---
GREAT THUNDERBALLS! ARE MY BLASTED EYES PLAYING TRICKS ON ME---
OR, DO I REALLY SEE --- WHAT I THINK I SEE?

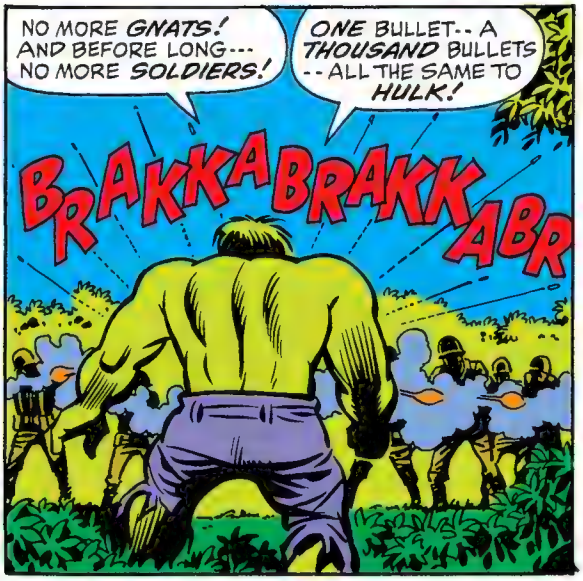
IT'S BRUCE BANNER ---AND HE WAS BEING MENACED BY THE HULK, TILL THAT LAST BURST DISTRACTED HIM!
BUT-- THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! BANNER IS THE HULK-- I'VE SEEN HIM MAKE THE CHANGE MYSELF!
FLYBOY! DROP BANNER A LIFELINE-- ON THE DOUBLE, MAN---


--EASY, FELLA! YOU'LL BE SAFE IN A SECOND!
MISTER, YOU MUST NEVER HAVE SEEN THE HULK ON A RAMPAGE BEFORE!
ELSE YOU'D KNOW THAT NOBODY ON EARTH IS TRULY SAFE-- WHILE THAT MONSTER'S ON THE LOOSE!
13


AT THAT MOMENT, AS IF TO UNDERSCORE THESE FRANTIC WORDS, A BOOMING CHALLENGE SPLITS THE SOFT SPRING BREEZES--!
YOU WON'T LET HULK ALONE-- NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES!
THEN HULK WILL CRUSH YOU SO YOU CAN'T FOLLOW ANY MORE!
OKAY, GUYS-- WE'VE GOT OUR ORDERS!
WE'VE GOT TO ATTACK THAT BRUTE-- KEEP HIS MIND OFF CHASING THE 'COPTER WITH BANNER AND THE GENERAL!
WE'RE DOIN' IT, BUDDY-- BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT!

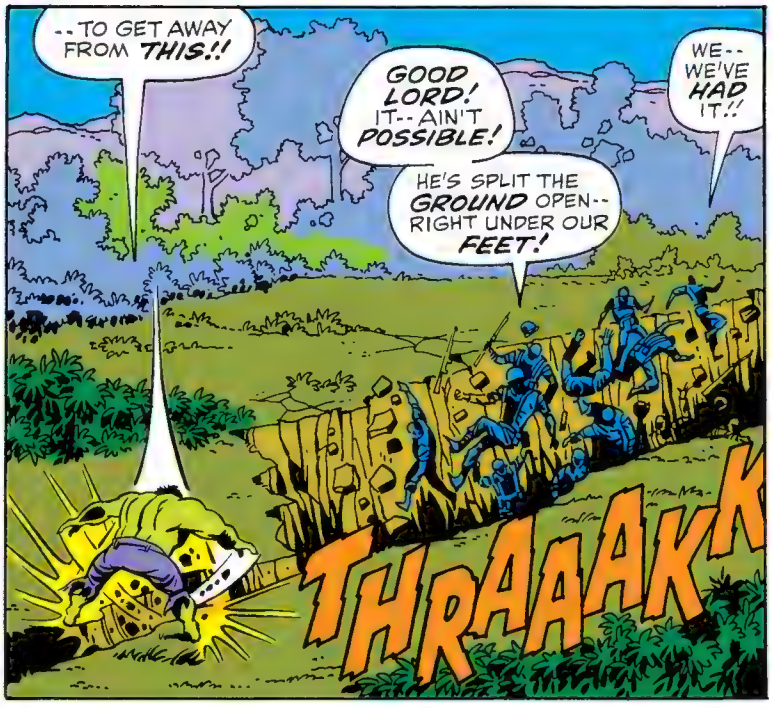
THE FIRST CHOPPER, HOWEVER, TAKES ITS MISSION TOO SERIOUSLY, AND PAYS THE PRICE..!
SMRASH!
ALWAYS THESE THINGS BUZZ AROUND HULK'S HEAD-- LIKE GNATS!


WHAM!
BUT HULK CAN SWAT GNATS-- LIKE THIS!

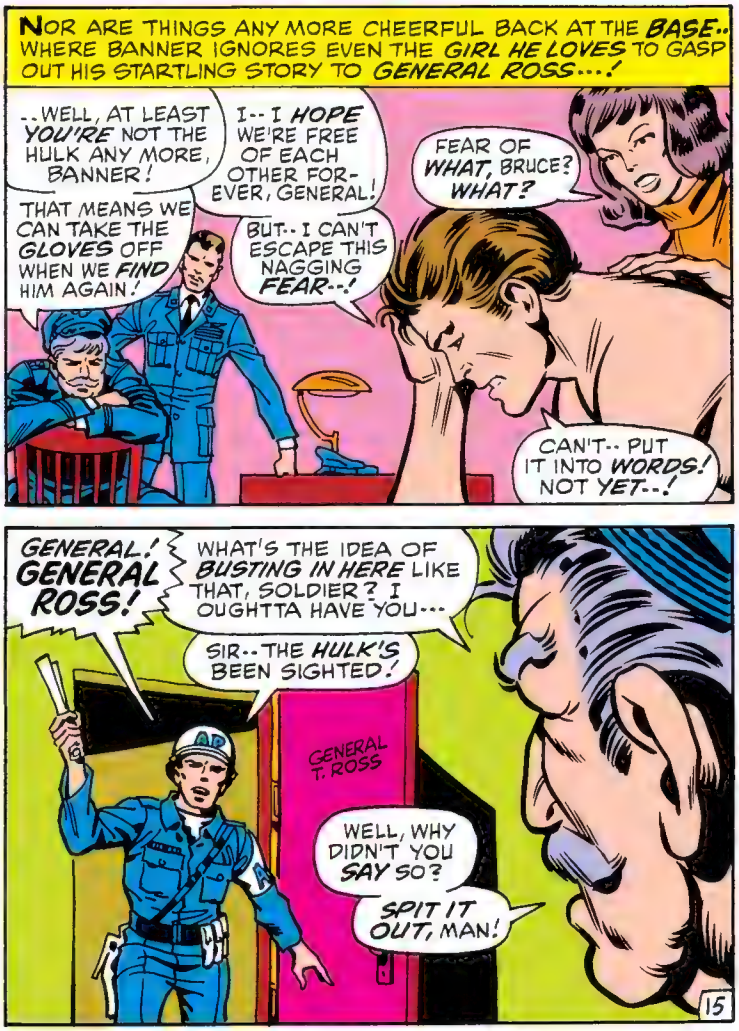

NO MORE GNATS! AND BEFORE LONG--- NO MORE SOLDIERS!
ONE BULLET-- A THOUSAND BULLETS --ALL THE SAME TO HULK!
BRAKKABRAKKABR

HE'S RIGHT, MEN!
WE'VE DONE OUR JOB, ANYWAY! THE GENERAL'S CHOPPER IS OUT OF SIGHT!
LET'S FALL BACK-- WHILE WE STILL CAN!
WE'RE WITH YOU, SARGE!

SO-- YOU SHOOT AT HULK-- THEN RUN AWAY!
BUT YOU CAN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH---

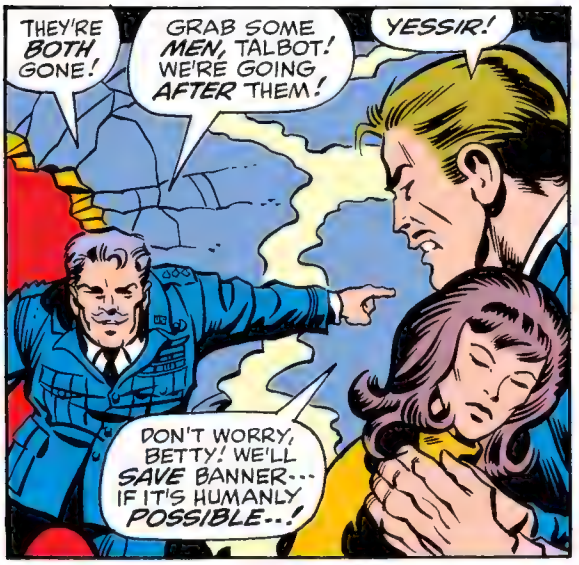

--TO GET AWAY FROM THIS!!
GOOD LORD! IT--AIN'T POSSIBLE!
HE'S SPLIT THE GROUND OPEN-- RIGHT UNDER OUR FEET!
WE-- WE'VE HAD IT!!
THRAAAKK

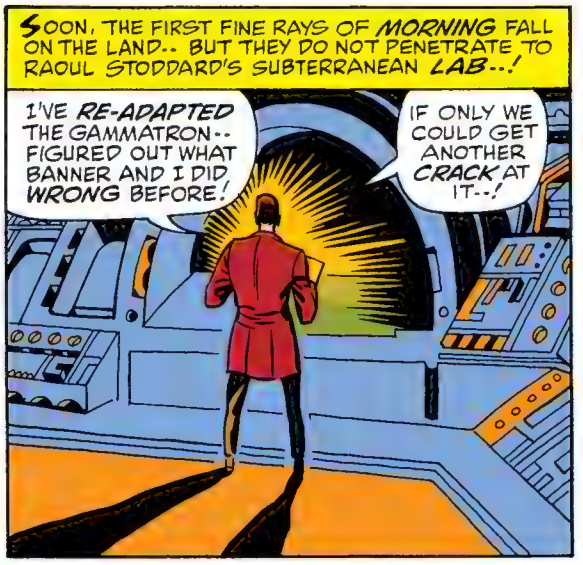
BUT, SO ALL-CONSUMING IS OUR GREEN GOLEM'S RAGE AGAINST BRUCE BANNER, THAT HE CARES LITTLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION HE CAN WREAK ON THE HAPLESS TROOPS ---
AND SO, THE NEXT MOMENT, HE TURNS AWAY -- AND HIS MASSIVE FORM LUMBERS OFF..!
BANNER IS THE ONLY ONE HULK WANTS! BANNER BANNER!
A LITTLE MORE-- AND THAT MONSTER WOULD'A OPENED A HOLE CLEAR DOWN TO CHINA!
BUT MAN-- I WOULDN'T WANNA BE BANNER WHEN THAT BABY CATCHES UP TO HIM--!


NOR ARE THINGS ANY MORE CHEERFUL BACK AT THE BASE.. WHERE BANNER IGNORES EVEN THE GIRL HE LOVES TO GASP OUT HIS STARTLING STORY TO GENERAL ROSS---!
--WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT THE HULK ANY MORE, BANNER!
I-- I HOPE WE'RE FREE OF EACH OTHER FOREVER, GENERAL!
FEAR OF WHAT, BRUCE? WHAT?
THAT MEANS WE CAN TAKE THE GLOVES OFF WHEN WE FIND HIM AGAIN!
BUT-- I CAN'T ESCAPE THIS NAGGING FEAR--!
CAN'T-- PUT IT INTO WORDS! NOT YET--!
GENERAL! GENERAL ROSS!
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF BUSTING IN HERE LIKE THAT, SOLDIER? I OUGHTTA HAVE YOU---
SIR-- THE HULK'S BEEN SIGHTED!
GENERAL T. ROSS
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
SPIT IT OUT, MAN!

" HE'S BEEN HAMMERING HIS WAY THRU THE CITIES NEAR HERE, GENERAL--SMASHING EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING THAT STANDS IN HIS PATH!"
" WHAT'S WORSE, OUR EXPERTS HAVE PLOTTED THAT PATH--- AND THEY'VE PROVED THAT IT VARIES, DEPENDING ON WHERE ONE PERSON IS AT ANY ONE MOMENT! WHERE BRUCE BANNER GOES-- THE HULK FOLLOWS!"
"AND THE LORD HELP ANYONE WHO TRIES TO STOP HIM!!"
DON'T WALK
POLICE

HOLD IT, SOLDIER! YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH-- ENOUGH TO FILL IN THE GAPS-- TO MAKE ME KNOW THAT WHAT I FEARED IS TRUE!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BRUCE? WHAT'S TRUE?
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE TWO ENTITIES NOW-- THE HULK'S STILL A PART OF ME-- AND I OF HIM!
SOMEHOW-- TO RID THE WORLD OF HIM FOR EVEN PART OF THE TIME-- WE'VE GOT TO BECOME ONE PERSON AGAIN!
NO! NO, BRUCE!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT-- I WON'T LET YOU!
NOW JUST SIMMER DOWN, BOTH OF YOU! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T--
KRASH!
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES??
HULK HAS COME FOR YOU, BANNER! FOR YOU!!
THE HULK-- HERE!?
GOOD LORD! HE CAME RIGHT THRU THE WALL-- LIKE IT WAS PAPIER-MACHE!
GET BACK, BANNER!
I'LL SEE IF I CAN FIRE AT HIM-- DISTRACT HIM!
NO, TALBOT! YOU'RE A BETTER MAN THAN I GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR--
BUT IT'S ME HE'S AFTER-- AND ONLY ME HE'LL DESTROY--
-- PROVIDED I GIVE HIM THAT CHANCE!
IT'S WORKING AGAIN-- JUST AS IT DID AT STODDARD'S LAB!
THE HULK CAN'T LEAP THRU THESE HALLS--- AND HE CAN'T RUN VERY FAST--
SO HE'S GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO STOMP AFTER ME ON FOOT---
-- WHICH GIVES ME JUST ENOUGH OF A HEAD START!
MAYBE!
17.

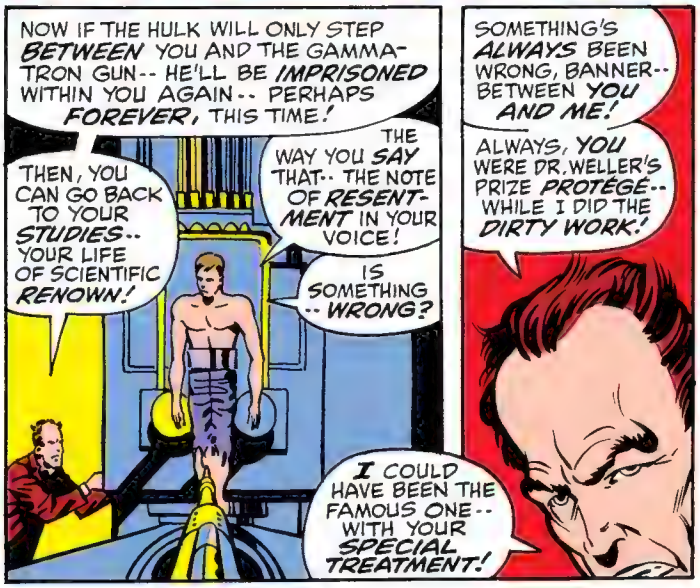

THEY'RE BOTH GONE!
GRAB SOME MEN, TALBOT! WE'RE GOING AFTER THEM!
YESSIR!
DON'T WORRY, BETTY! WE'LL SAVE BANNER--- IF IT'S HUMANLY POSSIBLE--!


SOON, THE FIRST FINE RAYS OF MORNING FALL ON THE LAND-- BUT THEY DO NOT PENETRATE TO RAOUL STODDARD'S SUBTERRANEAN LAB--!
I'VE RE-ADAPTED THE GAMMATRON-- FIGURED OUT WHAT BANNER AND I DID WRONG BEFORE!
IF ONLY WE COULD GET ANOTHER CRACK AT IT--!

GLAD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, STODDARD-- 'CAUSE YOU JUST MIGHT!
BANNER! HOW--?

NO TIME FOR TALK, MAN!
THE HULK MAY BE HERE-- AT ANY SECOND!
MAYBE WE CAN STOP HIM SOME-HOW--- DESTROY HIM!

THE THOUGHT IS TEMPTING-- BUT I'M NOT READY FOR SUICIDE YET!
FOR, THE HULK AND I ARE STILL ONE-- EVEN WHEN WE'RE SEPARATED! I'M SURE OF THAT NOW!
IF I KILL HIM-- I DESTROY MYSELF!
AMAZING! THEN...FASTEN THAT CLAMP AROUND YOU! HURRY!


NOW IF THE HULK WILL ONLY STEP BETWEEN YOU AND THE GAMMA-TRON GUN-- HE'LL BE IMPRISONED WITHIN YOU AGAIN-- PERHAPS FOREVER, THIS TIME!
THEN, YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR STUDIES-- YOUR LIFE OF SCIENTIFIC RENOWN!
THE WAY YOU SAY THAT-- THE NOTE OF RESENT-MENT IN YOUR VOICE!
IS SOMETHING -- WRONG?
I COULD HAVE BEEN THE FAMOUS ONE-- WITH YOUR SPECIAL TREATMENT!

SOMETHING'S ALWAYS BEEN WRONG, BANNER-- BETWEEN YOU AND ME!
ALWAYS, YOU WERE DR. WELLER'S PRIZE PROTÉGÉ-- WHILE I DID THE DIRTY WORK!

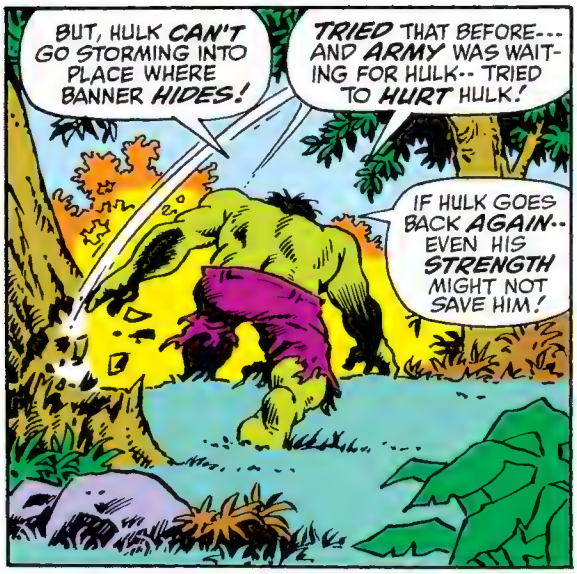
BUT, DON'T WORRY-- I'LL STILL SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS HIDE, EVEN THOUGH---
WHAT? WHO ARE YOU?
NEVER MIND, FELLA! JUST RELEASE DR. BANNER!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA OF CLAMPING A TOP SCIENTIST ONTO THAT GIZMO, ANYHOW?

AND IN THAT MOMENT-- THAT PRECISE INSTANT-- ALL THE RAGES AND FRUSTRATIONS WHICH HAVE LAIN DORMANT WITHIN THE MIND OF RAOUL STODDARD COME VIOLENTLY, IRREVERSIBLY TO LIFE! HE REACHES INTO A HANDY DRAWER, AND---
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, ALL OF YOU!
ANOTHER STEP-- AND YOU'LL BE ATOMIZED TO NOTHING BUT NEUTRINOS!
STODDARD! WHAT IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN--?
NO, BANNER! NOT IN HEAVEN'S NAME-- OR ANYBODY'S NAME BUT MINE-- RAOUL STODDARD'S!
THEIR BURSTING IN HERE JUST MADE ME REALIZE THAT-- ONCE YOU GO FREE-- I GO BACK TO BEING SECOND BEST -- AN ALSO-RAN!
WELL, THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME-- NOT ANY LONGER!
SO, SAY YOUR PRAYERS, BANNER! ANOTHER SECOND, AND RAOUL STODDARD WILL BE KNOWN AS--
THE MAN WHO KILLED BRUCE BANNER---
-- AND THEREBY RID THE EARTH OF THE HULK!!
SUDDENLY, AMIDST THE CRACKING AND CRUMBLING OF CONCRETE-- ENTER THE GREEN-SKINNED GARGANTUAN---
THRAKKKK
-- AND, AT THE MIND-STAGGERING SIGHT, THE TINY FORM OF RAOUL STODDARD STANDS RIVETED WITH FEAR-- UNABLE EVEN TO LIFT HIS ARM-- TO FIRE HIS INEFFECTIVE WEAPON--!
ALL RIGHT, BANNER! HULK IS TIRED OF PLAYING GAMES!
NOW HULK WILL SMASH YOU-- FOR THE LAST TIME!
AND WITH STODDARD GONE BANANAS ON ME-- THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN STOP HIM!
CAN'T EVEN SIGNAL ROSS OR THE OTHERS TO ACTIVATE THE GAMMATRON!
IT'S TOO COMPLICATED-- THEY'D NEVER FIGURE IT OUT BEFORE---
WHY AREN'T YOU SHAKING, BANNER-- SHAKING WITH FRIGHT?
DON'T YOU KNOW-- YOUR TIME IS ALMOST UP?

JUST ONE CHANCE! IF I CAN OVERCOME MY FEAR-- AND STARE, NOT AT THE HULK---
--BUT AT WHAT LOOMS BEHIND HIM--!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, BANNER?
NOTHING BACK THERE CAN SAVE YOU--NOT NOW!
HUH? THERE IS SOMETHING BEHIND HULK--A SHADOW!
A GUN! POINTED RIGHT AT HULK!
HULK SEEMS TO REMEMBER --THAT GUN DID SOMETHING TO HIM--ONCE BEFORE!
THEN--THIS WAS ALL A TRICK--TO LURE HULK HERE, AND HURT HIM!
NO, HULK! IT WASN'T A TRAP!
GO ON--CRUSH BANNER! DESTROY HIM--!
ANOTHER HUMAN--WITH ANOTHER STRANGE GUN!
ALWAYS THE HUMANS ACT LIKE HULK'S FRIENDS--WHILE THEY RUN AT HIM WITH GUNS!
BUT--NOT THIS TIME!!
SWAT!
HULK WILL STILL HAVE HIS REVENGE ON BANNER--- LATER!
BUT, HULK WILL CHOOSE THE TIME--AND HULK WILL CHOOSE THE PLACE!
THOOOM!
FOR A LONG, TENSE MOMENT, THOSE WITHIN THE CONCRETE-STREWN LAB STAND MESMERIZED! THEN---
OKAY, FELLA--HOLD STILL!
I'LL TAKE THIS POPGUN!
DON'T--HARM HIM, MEN! HE DIDN'T KNOW--WHAT HE WAS DOING!
GOT TO GET TO HULK--JOIN OUR TWO SELVES TOGETHER AGAIN
NO, BRUCE! YOU--YOU MUSTN'T EVEN THINK OF SUCH A THING!
YOU'RE SAFE NOW--AND I'LL NEVER LET YOU RISK YOURSELF AGAIN--NEVER!
RIGHT! FROM HERE ON, THIS IS THE ARMY'S SHOW!
WE'LL STOP THAT MONSTER SOMEHOW--WITHOUT RISKING YOUR LIFE!
BUT--GOD HELP ME--I DON'T KNOW HOW!
NEXT: TITAN AMIDST THE TENEMENTS!

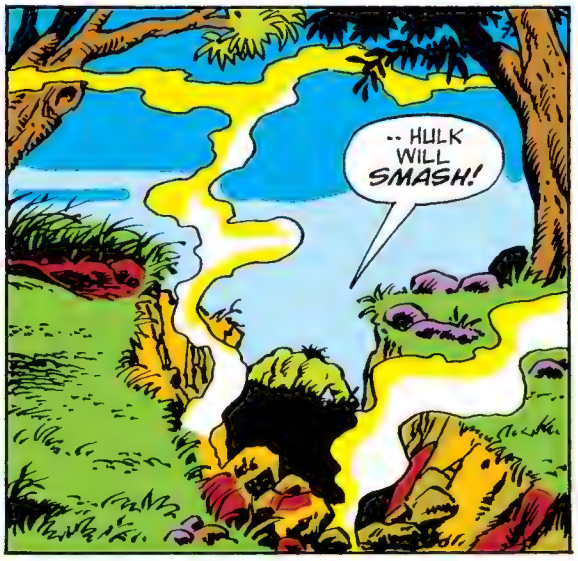
INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
CC
131
SEPT
A TITAN STALKS THE TENEMENTS!
HULK
TM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
HOLD YOUR FIRE, MEN! IT'S ALL OVER!
THE HULK IS--- DEAD!
TRIMPE

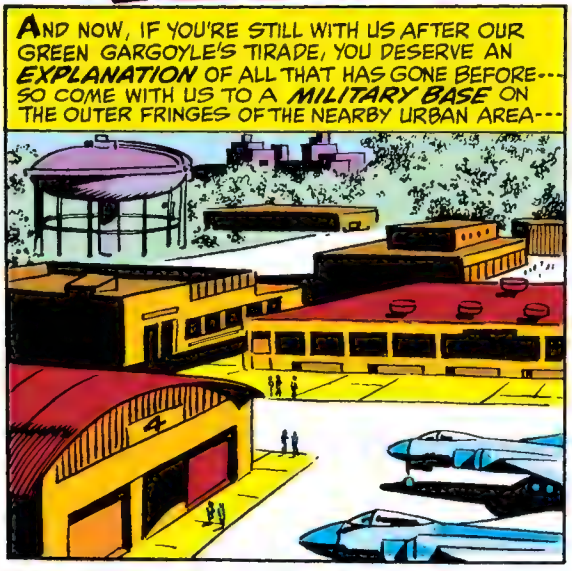
THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™
A TITAN STALKS THE TENEMENTS!
SOMEWHERE IN CITY BELOW IS BRUCE BANNER!.. THE ONE THAT HULK HATES MORE THAN ANY OTHER!
BEFORE LONG, HE'LL FACE HULK AGAIN... AND WHEN HE DOES...
BANNER WILL NEVER KEEP HULK IN DARK PRISON AGAIN!!
Featuring: THE POWER OF IRON MAN!
Stan LEE EDITOR
Roy THOMAS WRITER
Herb TRIMPE ARTIST
JOHN SEVERIN EMBELLISHER
SAM ROSEN LETTERER

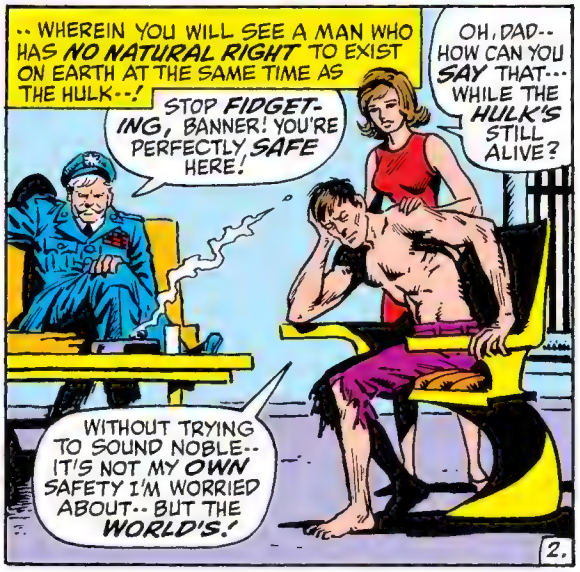

BUT, HULK CAN'T GO STORMING INTO PLACE WHERE BANNER HIDES!
TRIED THAT BEFORE--- AND ARMY WAS WAITING FOR HULK-- TRIED TO HURT HULK!
IF HULK GOES BACK AGAIN-- EVEN HIS STRENGTH MIGHT NOT SAVE HIM!

THINK, HULK! THINK OF HOW YOU CAN GET BANNER!
YES-- YES! IF HULK CAN'T GO TO WHERE BANNER IS---

THEN BANNER MUST COME TO HULK!
DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET HIM TO COME-- NOT YET-- BUT HE WILL!
AND WHEN HE DOES...
ERUUMM!


-- HULK WILL SMASH!


AND NOW, IF YOU'RE STILL WITH US AFTER OUR GREEN GARGOYLE'S TIRADE, YOU DESERVE AN EXPLANATION OF ALL THAT HAS GONE BEFORE--- SO COME WITH US TO A MILITARY BASE ON THE OUTER FRINGES OF THE NEARBY URBAN AREA---
4

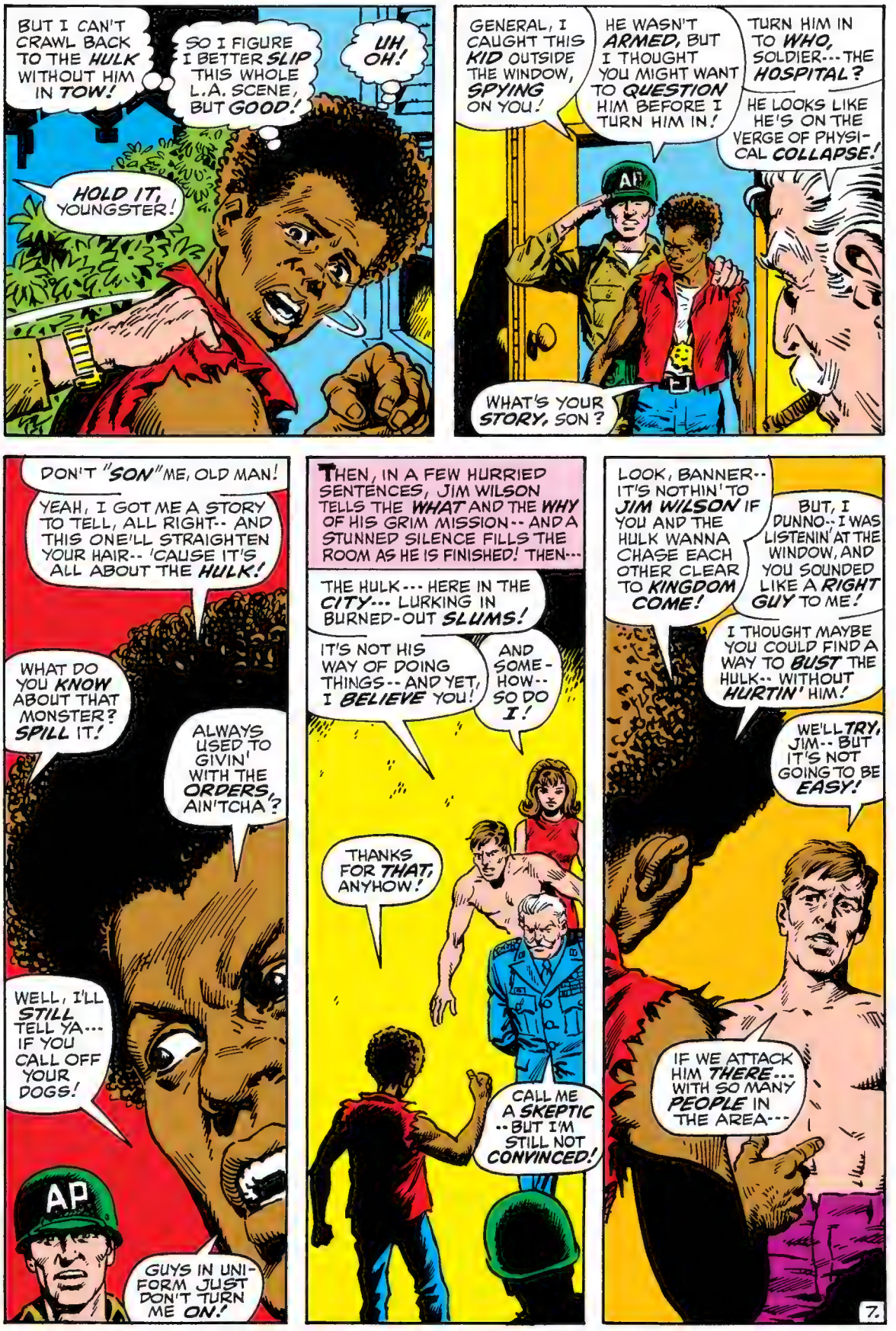

-- WHEREIN YOU WILL SEE A MAN WHO HAS NO NATURAL RIGHT TO EXIST ON EARTH AT THE SAME TIME AS THE HULK--!
STOP FIDGETING, BANNER! YOU'RE PERFECTLY SAFE HERE!
OH, DAD-- HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT--- WHILE THE HULK'S STILL ALIVE?
WITHOUT TRYING TO SOUND NOBLE-- IT'S NOT MY OWN SAFETY I'M WORRIED ABOUT-- BUT THE WORLD'S!

JUST LET THE U.S.A.F. TAKE CARE OF THE WORLD, MAN-- AND OF YOU, TOO!
NOW THAT YOU AND THE HULK HAVE BEEN ZAPPED INTO TWO SEPARATE BEINGS*-- IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME TILL WE DESTROY HIM!
*IT HAPPENED LAST ISH!--STAN.
NO-- YOU CAN'T! YOU KNOW BRUCE'S THEORY, DAD! IF ONE OF THEM IS KILLED--THE OTHER MAY PERISH AS WELL!
BALDERDASH!
IT'LL BE WORTH DYING, BETTY-- IF THAT'LL RID THIS PLANET FOREVER OF THE HULK!
DON'T, DARLING! DON'T DARE SAY-- OR EVEN THINK SUCH A THING!
WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN-- AND IF ANY HARM WERE TO BEFALL YOU NOW--
I'D DIE! DO YOU HEAR ME-- I'D DIE!
NONE OF THE FOREGOING SEEMS AT ALL RELATED TO WHAT'S HAPPENING ON L.A.'s HARPER STREET JUST NOW---!
THE SOFT PADDING OF RUNNING, FRIGHTENED FEET-- THE DESPERATE LUNGE OF A THIN BLACK ARM--- AND A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY, HIS BELLY EMPTY AND HIS MIND FULL OF UNFOCUSED HATE, BECOMES A THIEF---!
MY PURSE! STOP--!
RUN, JIM WILSON-- RUN! BUT YOU CAN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH TO ESCAPE THE SHAME THAT GNAWS AT YOUR HEART--- OR THE WEB WHOSE SILENT STRANDS ARE ALREADY DRAPING THEMSELVES ABOUT YOU---!
3.

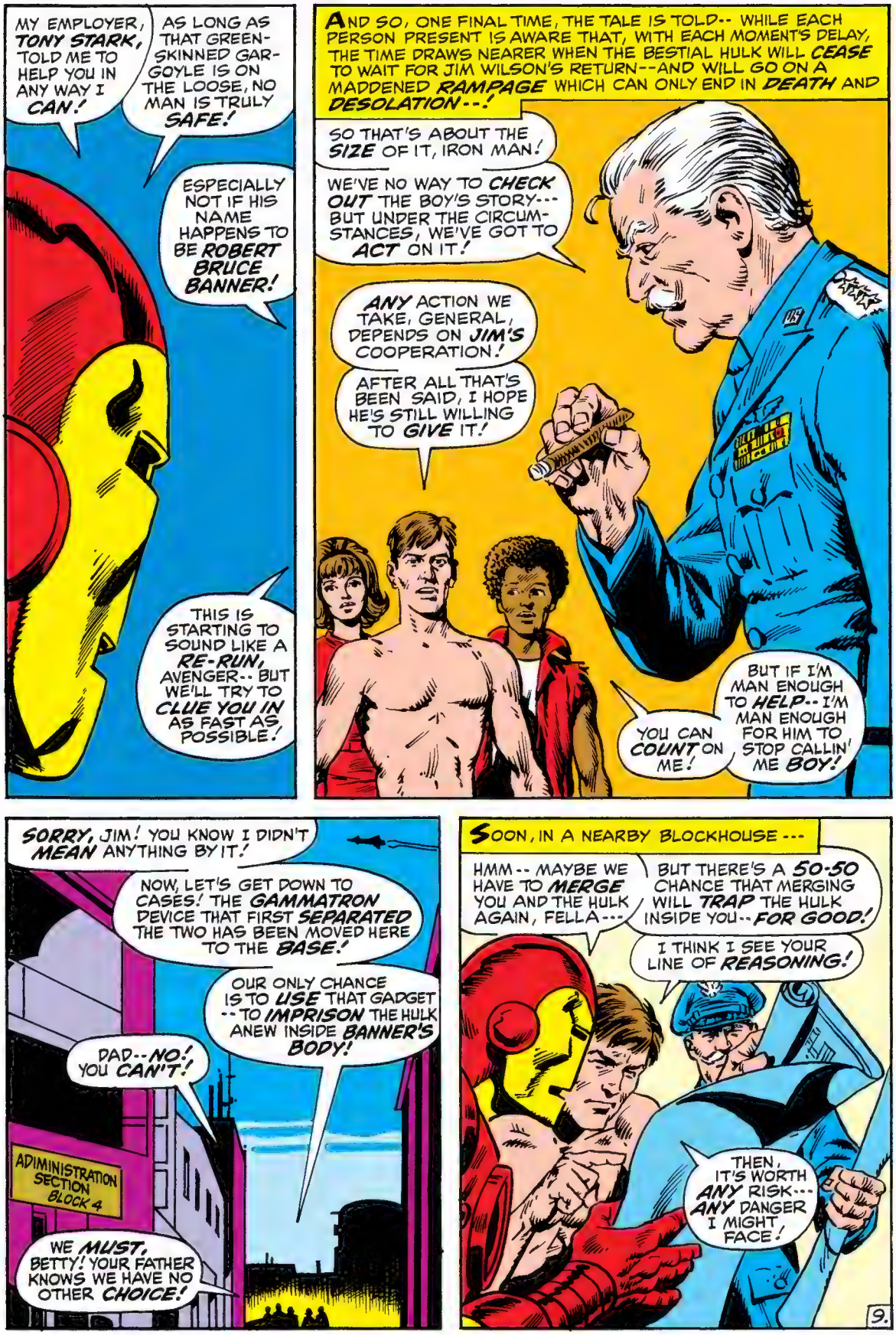
NOR CAN YOU HIDE FROM THESE THINGS IN THE BLACK-WALLED, FIRE-GUTTED TENEMENT WHERE YOU FURTIVELY FLEE ---
--- TO CRY---!
A THIEF! SHE CALLED ME A THIEF!
WELL, JIMBO, WHAT'D YOU EXPECT? THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE, AIN'T IT?
SURE, SO MAYBE THIS TIME YOU THOUGHT IT OVER---AND DROPPED THE PURSE WHERE THAT SISTER COULD FIND IT!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE NEXT TIME--- AND THE TIME AFTER THAT?
'CAUSE YOU'RE STILL BROKE--- AND YOU'RE STILL HUNGRY!
AND YOU STILL GOT NO PAD BESIDES THIS BURNED-OUT HOLE!
THE SAME PLACE--- WHERE MOM AND POP DIED!
MOM AND POP! YEAH, AN' WOULDN'T THEY BE PROUD OF THEIR LITTLE BOY NOW?
TURNIN' INTO A PURSE-SNATCHER ---AND STEALIN' FROM BLOOD, BESIDES!
MAYBE I OUGHTTA BE GLAD THAT THEY---
HUH? WHO--?
HOLY CRUD--- IT'S THE HULK!!
4

YES-- HULK IS HIDING HERE NOW--- FROM POLICE--- FROM EVERYONE!
CAN'T LET YOU GET AWAY --- TO TELL WHERE HULK IS-- TO BRING HULK'S ENEMIES HERE!
NO-- NO! K-KEEP BACK!
MEN SAY THAT THE HULK HAS NO PITY... NO COMPASSION--- THAT HE IS NAUGHT BUT A MINDLESS, MONSTROUS ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION! YET, SOMETHING IN JIM WILSON'S VOICE-- SOME HINT OF DESPERATION AND HUNGER MINGLED WITH THE FEAR HE FEELS--- TOUCHES A CHORD DEEP WITHIN THE BEING OF THE GREEN-SKINNED BRUTE, AND---
YOU ARE SMALL--- TO SMALL TO HURT HULK!
IF YOU WON'T TELL WHERE HULK IS, HULK WILL LET YOU LIVE!
I-- I WON'T FINK OUT ON YA, MAN! I SWEAR I WON'T!
I'LL DO ANY-THING YOU SAY ---AND THAT'S NO LIE!
GOOD! THEN HULK HAS JOB FOR YOU!
HULK HAS ENEMIES--- MOST OF ALL THE ONE CALLED BRUCE BANNER!
YOU MUST BRING HIM HERE TO HULK--- SO HULK CAN SMASH HIM FOR GOOD!
BANNER? OH YEAH--- THE PAPERS TOLD WHERE YOU TWO HAD GONE SPLITSVILLE!
LOOK, I GOT NO BEEF AGAINST THIS BANNER GUY MYSELF... BUT IF YOU WANT 'IM, YOU GOT 'IM!
WHAT'S WHITEY EVER DONE FOR ME THAT I SHOULD CARE IF YOU CREAM HIM?
YOU AND ME, HULK--- WE GOT A LOT IN COMMON!
NOBODY LIKES ME MUCH, EITHER--- NOT EVEN MYSELF!
YES--- WORLD HATES US--- BOTH OF US!
--- BECAUSE WE'RE--- DIFFERENT!
5.

YOU KNOW IT, MAN!
HEY--- YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A GRUBSTAKE YOURSELF!
HERE--- THIS IS ALL I GOT, BUT MAYBE IT'LL HELP!
THIS IS YOUR LAST FOOD--- AND YOU SHARE IT WITH HULK?
I WAS SAVIN' IT FOR--- A SPECIAL OCCASION!
AND IF THIS AIN'T IT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL BE!
HULK LIKES YOU --- FEELS HE CAN TRUST YOU TO BRING BANNER HERE!
BUT IF YOU LIE TO HULK --- TRY TO BETRAY HIM---
I KNOW THE SCORE, GREEN-EYES!
YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS... WITH JIM WILSON!
SECURITY IS TIGHT THAT EVENING AROUND THE NEARBY MILITARY BASE--- BUT NOT SO TIGHT THAT A DETERMINED, UNDERNOURISHED YOUTH CAN'T SLIP THRU A NET DESIGNED TO SNARE A HALF-TON BEHEMOTH--!
PAPERS SAY BANNER IS HERE... BUT NOW I AIN'T SO SURE I CAN GO THRU WITH IT!
AND--- I AIN'T QUITE INTO THAT BAG YET!
GRABBIN' A PURSE IS ONE THING--- BUT WHAT THE HULK WANTS ME TO DO WOULD BE --MURDER!
AM I?
GATE
REQUEST DENIED!
YOU'RE TALKING LIKE A RAVING MADMAN, BANNER!
ON THE CONTRARY, GENERAL--- IT'S THE ONLY SANE ANSWER!
THE MILITARY WILL NEVER DESTROY THE HULK NOW--- WITHOUT KILLING COUNTLESS CIVILIANS!
BUT IF WE CAN TRICK HIM INTO MERGING WITH ME AGAIN---
--- THEN AT LEAST I CAN BE KEPT UNDER CONTROLLED SEDATION NOW THAT I'VE SURRENDERED TO YOU!
WELL, GENERAL? DOES YOUR SILENCE MEAN I'M GETTING THRU TO YOU?
THAT'S THE CAT I'M SUPPOSED TO LEAD TO THE SLAUGHTER?
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, DAD! DON'T!!
NO, THANKS! HE'S GOT GUTS--- THE WAY MY DAD DID--- BEFORE THE FIRE GOT 'IM!
6

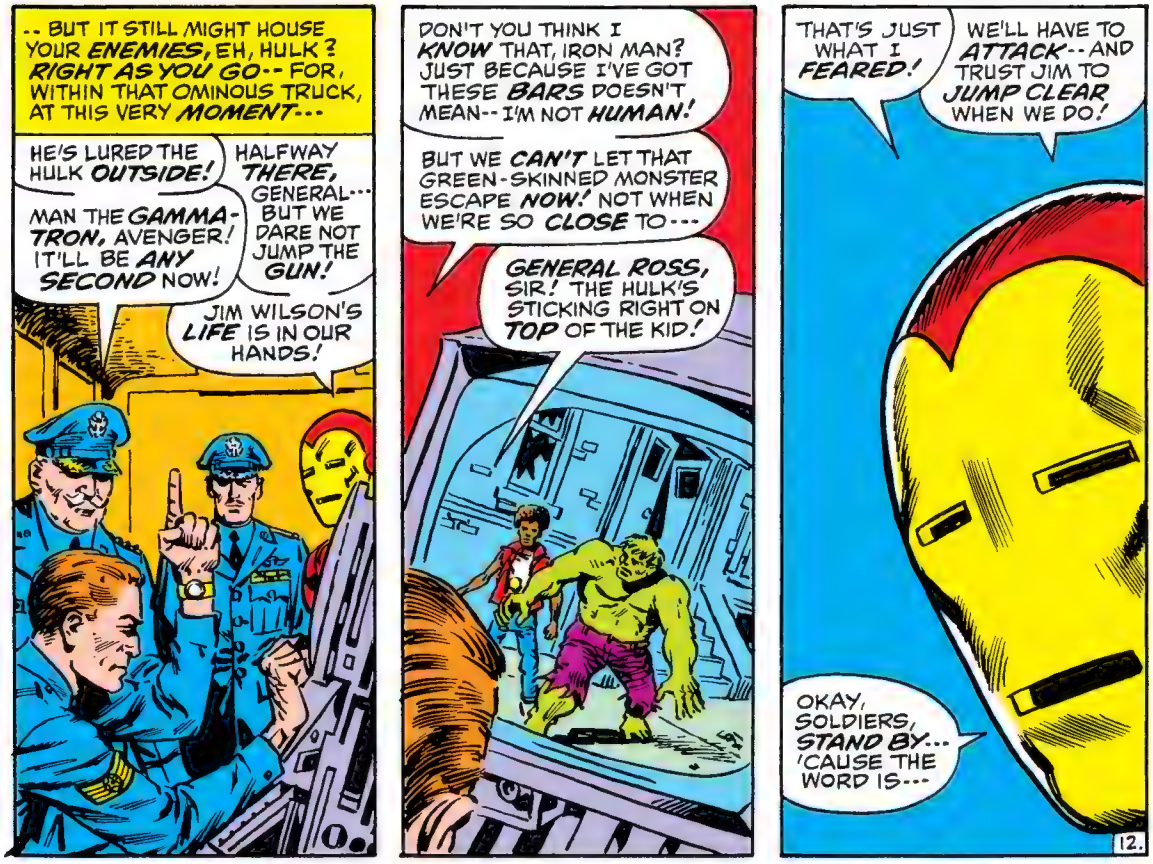

BUT I CAN'T CRAWL BACK TO THE HULK WITHOUT HIM IN TOW!
SO I FIGURE I BETTER SLIP THIS WHOLE L.A. SCENE, BUT GOOD!
UH, OH!
HOLD IT, YOUNGSTER!
GENERAL, I CAUGHT THIS KID OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, SPYING ON YOU!
HE WASN'T ARMED, BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO QUESTION HIM BEFORE I TURN HIM IN!
TURN HIM IN TO WHO, SOLDIER--- THE HOSPITAL?
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S ON THE VERGE OF PHYSICAL COLLAPSE!
WHAT'S YOUR STORY, SON?
DON'T "SON" ME, OLD MAN!
YEAH, I GOT ME A STORY TO TELL, ALL RIGHT-- AND THIS ONE'LL STRAIGHTEN YOUR HAIR-- 'CAUSE IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HULK!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT MONSTER? SPILL IT!
ALWAYS USED TO GIVIN' WITH THE ORDERS, AIN'TCHA?
WELL, I'LL STILL TELL YA--- IF YOU CALL OFF YOUR DOGS!
AP
GUYS IN UNIFORM JUST DON'T TURN ME ON!
THEN, IN A FEW HURRIED SENTENCES, JIM WILSON TELLS THE WHAT AND THE WHY OF HIS GRIM MISSION-- AND A STUNNED SILENCE FILLS THE ROOM AS HE IS FINISHED! THEN---
THE HULK--- HERE IN THE CITY--- LURKING IN BURNED-OUT SLUMS!
IT'S NOT HIS WAY OF DOING THINGS-- AND YET, I BELIEVE YOU!
AND SOMEHOW-- SO DO I!
THANKS FOR THAT, ANYHOW!
CALL ME A SKEPTIC --BUT I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED!
LOOK, BANNER-- IT'S NOTHIN' TO JIM WILSON IF YOU AND THE HULK WANNA CHASE EACH OTHER CLEAR TO KINGDOM COME!
BUT, I DUNNO-- I WAS LISTENIN' AT THE WINDOW, AND YOU SOUNDED LIKE A RIGHT GUY TO ME!
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD FIND A WAY TO BUST THE HULK-- WITHOUT HURTIN' HIM!
WE'LL TRY, JIM-- BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY!
IF WE ATTACK HIM THERE--- WITH SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE AREA---
7.

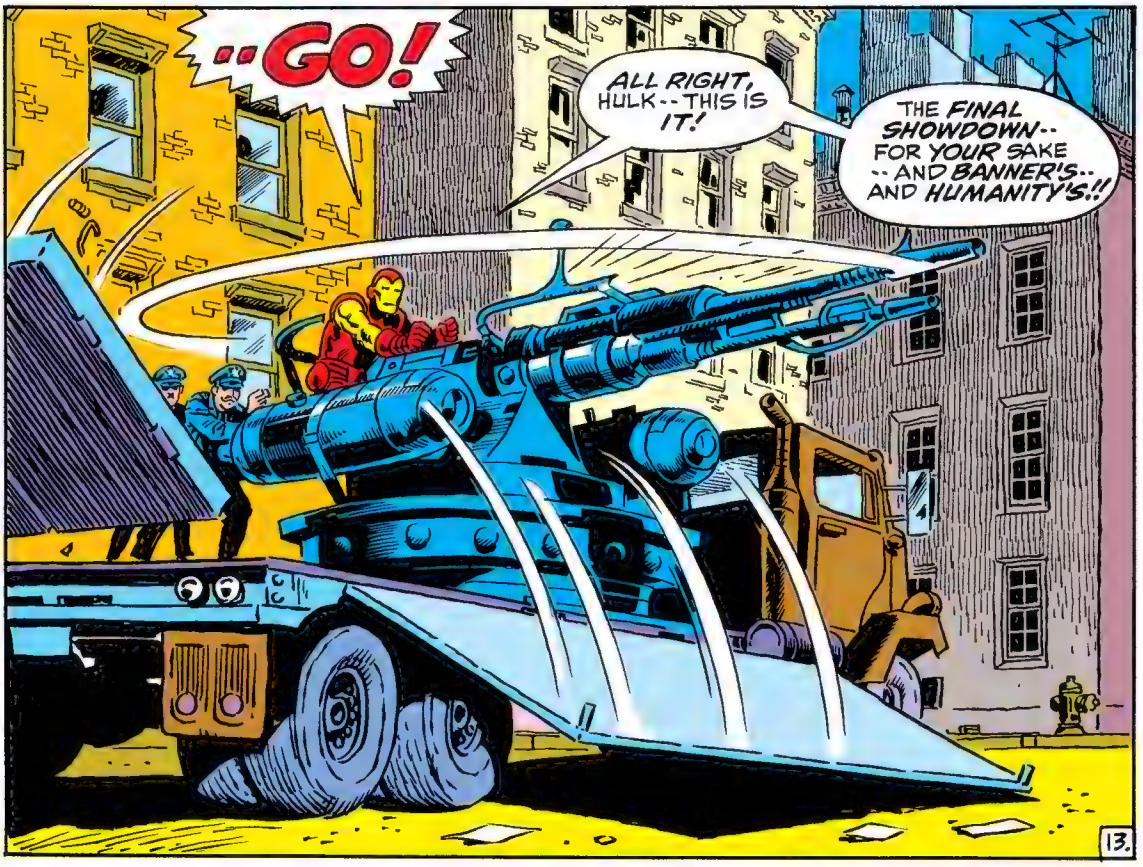
CONDITION RED! CONDITION RED!
UNIDENTIFIED MAN-SIZED FLYING OBJECT APPROACHING BUILDING TWO--- FROM OUT OF THE EAST!
MAY BE THE HULK! REPEAT ---MAY BE THE HULK!
MAY BE THE HULK? IS THAT SOLDIER BUCKING FOR A SECTION EIGHT?
OF COURSE IT'S THE HULK--- AND THE BOY LED HIM RIGHT TO US--- TRIED TO GET OUR GUARD DOWN!
I DON'T THINK SO, SIR!
WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT HAVE--?
YOU STAY HERE AND PUZZLE IT OUT, BANNER!
DAD--- WAIT!!
THERE'S THAT HUMAN UFO! I CAN SEE IT NOW!
BUT-- HE ISN'T JUMPING LIKE THE HULK DOES! HE'S REALLY FLYING!
IT ISN'T THE HULK--IT'S--
BUILDING 2
THE NAME, GENERAL ROSS, IS IRON MAN!
GREAT THUNDER! HE'S HERE! HE REALLY CAME!
JIL 2
CLASS + CURITY
YOU SEEMED LESS THAN PLEASED WITH THE CONTINGENT OF AVENGERS WHO ANSWERED YOUR RECENT REQUEST FOR AID!*
SO THIS TIME, WHEN I HEARD WHAT WAS AFOOT, I CAME ON MY OWN!
THUNK!
*AS WITNESSED IN ISSUE #128! -- STAN.
8

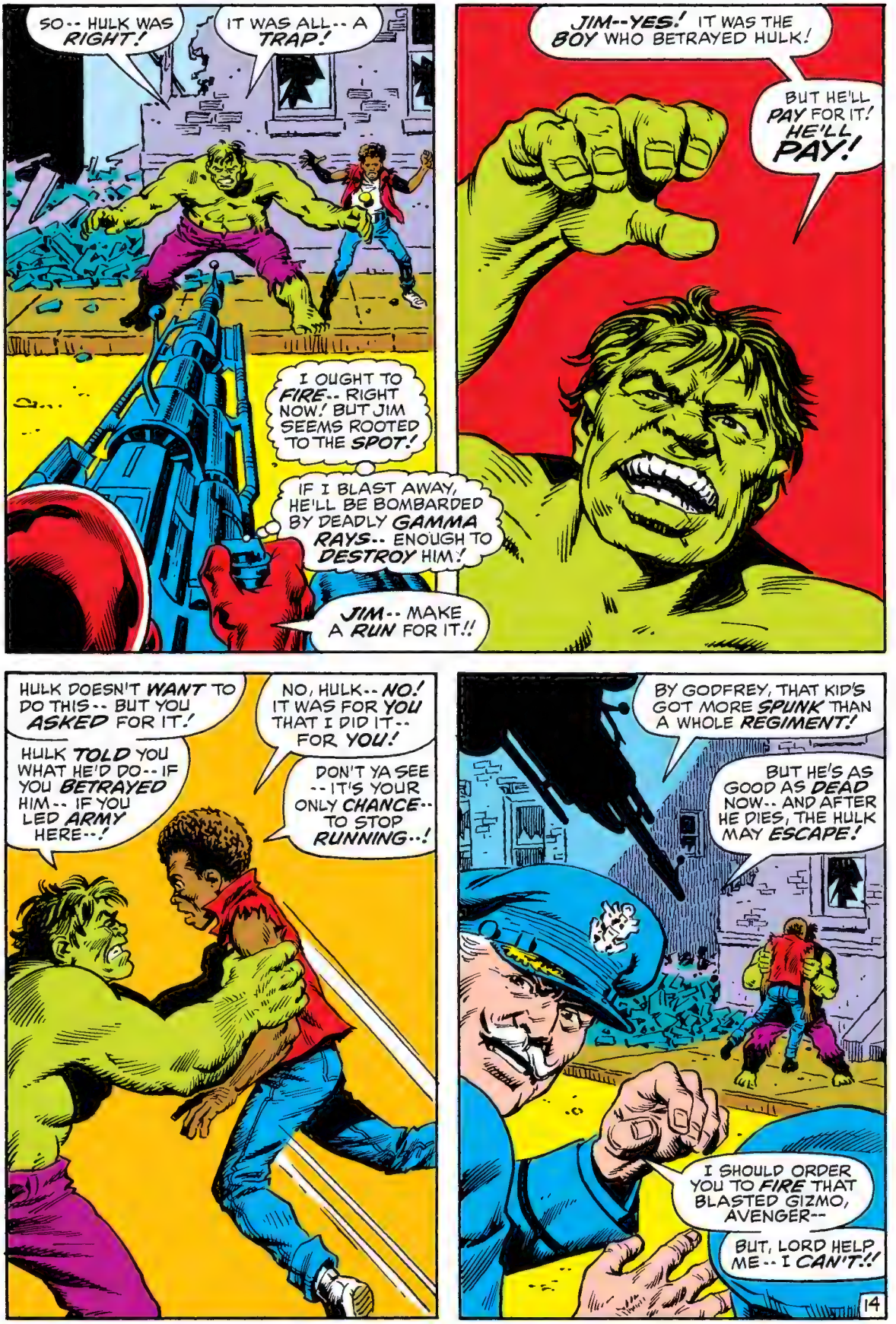

MY EMPLOYER, TONY STARK, TOLD ME TO HELP YOU IN ANY WAY I CAN!
AS LONG AS THAT GREEN-SKINNED GARGOYLE IS ON THE LOOSE, NO MAN IS TRULY SAFE!
ESPECIALLY NOT IF HIS NAME HAPPENS TO BE ROBERT BRUCE BANNER!
THIS IS STARTING TO SOUND LIKE A RE-RUN, AVENGER-- BUT WE'LL TRY TO CLUE YOU IN AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!
AND SO, ONE FINAL TIME, THE TALE IS TOLD-- WHILE EACH PERSON PRESENT IS AWARE THAT, WITH EACH MOMENT'S DELAY, THE TIME DRAWS NEARER WHEN THE BESTIAL HULK WILL CEASE TO WAIT FOR JIM WILSON'S RETURN--AND WILL GO ON A MADDENED RAMPAGE WHICH CAN ONLY END IN DEATH AND DESOLATION--!
SO THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT, IRON MAN!
WE'VE NO WAY TO CHECK OUT THE BOY'S STORY--- BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE'VE GOT TO ACT ON IT!
ANY ACTION WE TAKE, GENERAL, DEPENDS ON JIM'S COOPERATION!
AFTER ALL THAT'S BEEN SAID, I HOPE HE'S STILL WILLING TO GIVE IT!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!
BUT IF I'M MAN ENOUGH TO HELP-- I'M MAN ENOUGH FOR HIM TO STOP CALLIN' ME BOY!
SORRY, JIM! YOU KNOW I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT!
NOW, LET'S GET DOWN TO CASES! THE GAMMATRON DEVICE THAT FIRST SEPARATED THE TWO HAS BEEN MOVED HERE TO THE BASE!
OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO USE THAT GADGET --TO IMPRISON THE HULK ANEW INSIDE BANNER'S BODY!
DAD--NO! YOU CAN'T!
ADIMINISTRATION SECTION BLOCK 4
WE MUST, BETTY! YOUR FATHER KNOWS WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
SOON, IN A NEARBY BLOCKHOUSE ---
HMM-- MAYBE WE HAVE TO MERGE YOU AND THE HULK AGAIN, FELLA---
BUT THERE'S A 50-50 CHANCE THAT MERGING WILL TRAP THE HULK INSIDE YOU--FOR GOOD!
I THINK I SEE YOUR LINE OF REASONING!
THEN, IT'S WORTH ANY RISK--- ANY DANGER I MIGHT FACE!
9.

OUR NEXT PROBLEM, THEN, IS ONE OF LOGISTICS!
SINCE WE CAN'T BRING THE HULK HERE, WE'VE GOT TO GET THE GAMMATRON TO HIM!
AND THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN, JIM!
WILL YOU LURE THE HULK WITHIN RANGE? IN OTHER WORDS...
IN OTHER WORDS, WILL I DOUBLE-CROSS HIM--- AIN'T THAT WHAT YOU MEAN?
Y'KNOW, THE HULK MAY BE GREEN AN' MEAN--- BUT MAYBE IT'S JUST 'CAUSE NOBODY EVER GAVE 'IM A CHANCE TO BE ANYTHIN' ELSE!
IF I HELP CAPTURE HIM, WON'T I BE GIVIN' UP ON HIM, TOO?
I-- I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THAT!
I JUST--- DON'T KNOW---!
WHAT IS HULK DOING HERE--?
OH, YES-- NOW HULK REMEMBERS! THE BOY SAID HE WOULD BRING BRUCE BANNER HERE-- FOR HULK TO SMASH!
BUT IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THE BOY LEFT-- TOO LONG!
WHAT IF HE LEADS THE ARMY HERE-- TO ATTACK HULK?
IF HE DOES... HULK WILL KILL!!
10

MAYBE, MAYBE HULK BETTER GO, BEFORE---
HUH?
STOP, HULK! DON'T CUT OUT! I'M BACK!
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG, BUT IT WASN'T EXACTLY EASY STREET TALKIN' BANNER INTO COMING HERE!
I TOLD HIM YOU WERE DYIN' UP HERE-- BUT HE'S STILL HIDIN' ACROSS THE STREET, TILL I CAME UP TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE HELPLESS!
HULK WILL SHOW HIM HOW HELPLESS HE IS!
LEAD HULK TO BANNER!
OKAY, HULK---
THE COAST IS CLEAR!
YOU CAN COME OUT NOW!
FOLLOW ME AND I'LL TAKE YOU TO---
WHAT'S BUGGIN' YOU, MAN? WHY'RE YOU HOLDIN' BACK?
THAT TRUCK! HULK DIDN'T SEE IT HERE BEFORE!
IT'S NOT BIG ENOUGH TO HIDE WHOLE ARMY-- BUT STILL---
11.


-- BUT IT STILL MIGHT HOUSE YOUR ENEMIES, EH, HULK? RIGHT AS YOU GO-- FOR, WITHIN THAT OMINOUS TRUCK, AT THIS VERY MOMENT---
HE'S LURED THE HULK OUTSIDE!
HALFWAY THERE, GENERAL--- BUT WE DARE NOT JUMP THE GUN!
MAN THE GAMMA-TRON, AVENGER! IT'LL BE ANY SECOND NOW!
JIM WILSON'S LIFE IS IN OUR HANDS!
DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW THAT, IRON MAN? JUST BECAUSE I'VE GOT THESE BARS DOESN'T MEAN-- I'M NOT HUMAN!
BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT GREEN-SKINNED MONSTER ESCAPE NOW! NOT WHEN WE'RE SO CLOSE TO---
GENERAL ROSS, SIR! THE HULK'S STICKING RIGHT ON TOP OF THE KID!
THAT'S JUST WHAT I FEARED!
WE'LL HAVE TO ATTACK-- AND TRUST JIM TO JUMP CLEAR WHEN WE DO!
OKAY, SOLDIERS, STAND BY... 'CAUSE THE WORD IS---
12.


..GO!
ALL RIGHT, HULK-- THIS IS IT!
THE FINAL SHOWDOWN-- FOR YOUR SAKE -- AND BANNER'S... AND HUMANITY'S!!
13.


SO-- HULK WAS RIGHT!
IT WAS ALL-- A TRAP!
I OUGHT TO FIRE-- RIGHT NOW! BUT JIM SEEMS ROOTED TO THE SPOT!
IF I BLAST AWAY, HE'LL BE BOMBARDED BY DEADLY GAMMA RAYS-- ENOUGH TO DESTROY HIM!
JIM-- MAKE A RUN FOR IT!!
JIM--YES! IT WAS THE BOY WHO BETRAYED HULK!
BUT HE'LL PAY FOR IT! HE'LL PAY!
HULK DOESN'T WANT TO DO THIS-- BUT YOU ASKED FOR IT!
HULK TOLD YOU WHAT HE'D DO-- IF YOU BETRAYED HIM-- IF YOU LED ARMY HERE--!
NO, HULK-- NO! IT WAS FOR YOU THAT I DID IT-- FOR YOU!
DON'T YA SEE -- IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE-- TO STOP RUNNING--!
BY GODFREY, THAT KID'S GOT MORE SPUNK THAN A WHOLE REGIMENT!
BUT HE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD NOW-- AND AFTER HE DIES, THE HULK MAY ESCAPE!
I SHOULD ORDER YOU TO FIRE THAT BLASTED GIZMO, AVENGER--
BUT, LORD HELP ME-- I CAN'T!!
14

GLAD YOU SAID THAT-- 'CAUSE I WOULDN'T HAVE PULLED THE TRIGGER IF YOU HAD ORDERED IT!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF THIS MESS-- AND I'M TAKING IT!
TELL ONE OF YOUR DOGGIES TO MAN THIS THING, GENERAL---

I'M GOING AFTER THE HULK!

HOLY HANNAH! I'D FORGOTTEN HOW STRONG THAT HUMAN BULLDOZER IS!
THAT PUNCH WOULD'VE TOTALED A COMMUTER TRAIN-- AND HE BARELY FELT IT!
-- WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR MY FIST!
WHAM!
IRON MAN! SO-- YOU ATTACK HULK, TOO!

BUT HULK IS STRONGER THAN YOU-- STRONGER THAN ALL HIS ENEMIES!
RUN, LAD-- RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
AND NOW -- HULK WILL SHOW YOU JUST HOW STRONG HE IS!
MISTER, THIS IS ONE TIME I'LL BE GLAD TO MAKE LIKE STEPPIN FETCHIT!

BUT, SO CONCERNED IS THE GOLDEN AVENGER FOR THE SAFETY OF JIM WILSON, THAT HE NEGLECTS HIS OWN FOR ONE FATEFUL MOMENT-- AND THAT IS TIME ENOUGH FOR THE RAGING HULK--!
HE GRABBED ME-- AND EVEN MY ARMOR WON'T SAVE ME IF HE HURLS ME DOWN WITH ALL HIS MIGHT!
JUST ONE CHANCE! HIS MEMORY'S GOTTA BE A LOT WORSE THAN MINE--
-- SO I'M BETTING HE'S FORGOTTEN THE TERRIFIC THRUST OF--- MY REPULSOR RAYS!
THAT DID IT! HE LOOSENED HIS GRIP FOR JUST AN INSTANT-- AND I'M FREE!
=UNNHHH!=
BUT THAT STILL ISN'T GETTING US ANYWHERE!
GOT TO GET HIM TO STAND STILL-- ALL BY HIS LONE-SOME-- LONG ENOUGH FOR THE GAMMATRON TO ZERO IN ON HIM!
OTHERWISE HE'LL LEAP OFF-- AND WE'LL HAVE LOST HIM AGAIN!
CONFOUND IT! WE'RE NOT ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING EXCEPT TEARING UP SLUMS FOR URBAN RENEWAL!
IF ONLY BANNER WERE HERE! HE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE HULK THAN ANYBODY ELSE!
BUT WE DIDN'T DARE BRING HIM THIS CLOSE--TILL THE GAMMATRON HAS WEAKENED THE HULK!
AND THAT MONSTER'S A LONG WAY FROM BEING FINISHED, GENERAL!
LOOK OUT, IRON MAN! YOU'RE SWOOPING TOO CLOSE TO HIM--!
16

HULK HAS GOT YOU NOW, AVENGER!
NOW YOU WILL PAY! NOW YOU WILL PAY!
GOOD LORD! WHAT'D THAT BULLET-HEAD MEAN, DIVING SO NEAR THE HULK?
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM NOW! HE'S FINISHED!
NNOOOOOO
THW
HAH! PUNY HUMANS CALL YOU IRON MAN!
BUT YOU'RE JUST STRAW MAN TO THE HULK!
AND NOW-- FOR THE FINAL BLOW--!!
HE'S--RIGHT! ONE MORE BLOW-- MIGHT POLISH ME OFF!
I LET HIM GRAB ME-- SO HE'D STAND STILL FOR A MOMENT-- BE THE LIVING TARGET WE NEED!
BUT THE WAY IT WORKED OUT-- I'M STILL IN THE LINE OF FIRE--- AND ROSS WON'T OPEN UP WHILE I AM!
THIS NEXT BIT IS RISKY-- 'CAUSE I DON'T KNOW IF EVEN THE HULK CAN SURVIVE IT---
BUT-- I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE!
ALL RIGHT, GREENSKIN-- YOU ASKED FOR IT---
AND YOU'VE GOT IT!
17.

LIKE TWO BLUDGEONING BOLTS OF HEAVEN-SENT LIGHTNING, THE FULL FORCE OF TWIN REPULSOR BEAMS RIPS THRU MORTAR AND BRICKS OF THE ABANDONED TENEMENT NEAR WHICH THE HULK STANDS...SLICES THRU WITH A FEARSOME FURY HIS BESTIAL BRAIN CANNOT QUICKLY COMPREHEND--!
RRRAKKK
HUH? WHAT IS NOISE BEHIND HULK?
NO! IT CAN'T BE-- CAN'T BE!!
AND THEN, EVEN AS HIS TORTURED MIND STILL STRUGGLES TO UNDERSTAND--IT IS ALL OVER!
RUMMBL
I ROLLED OUT OF THE WAY-- JUST IN TIME!
KEEP THAT GAMMATRON AT THE READY, SOLDIER-- BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE NEEDING IT!
I'VE BATTLED THE HULK BEFORE-- AND EVEN HE WAS NEVER STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND A WHOLE BUILDING FALLING ON HIM!
I'M AFRAID-- HE'S DEAD-- AND MAYBE BRUCE BANNER ALONG WITH HIM--!
WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING BENEATH ALL THAT RUIN AND RUBBLE!
--SOMETHING-- THAT'S ALIVE!!

THE HULK LIVES!
HULK IS STRONGER THAN WHEN YOU KNEW HIM, IRON MAN-- STRONGER THAN EVER!
NOTHING CAN KILL HIM! NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!
AND NOW-- THE HULK IS COMING FOR YOU!

BUT, EVEN AS THE ANGRY BEHEMOTH FACES THE GREAT GOLDEN AVENGER--!
SHELLHEAD'S IN THE CLEAR, GENERAL ROSS!
AT LAST, I'VE GOT A BEAD ON THE HULK!
WELL THEN, DON'T JUST SQUAT THERE, SOLDIER!
FIRE THAT THING!

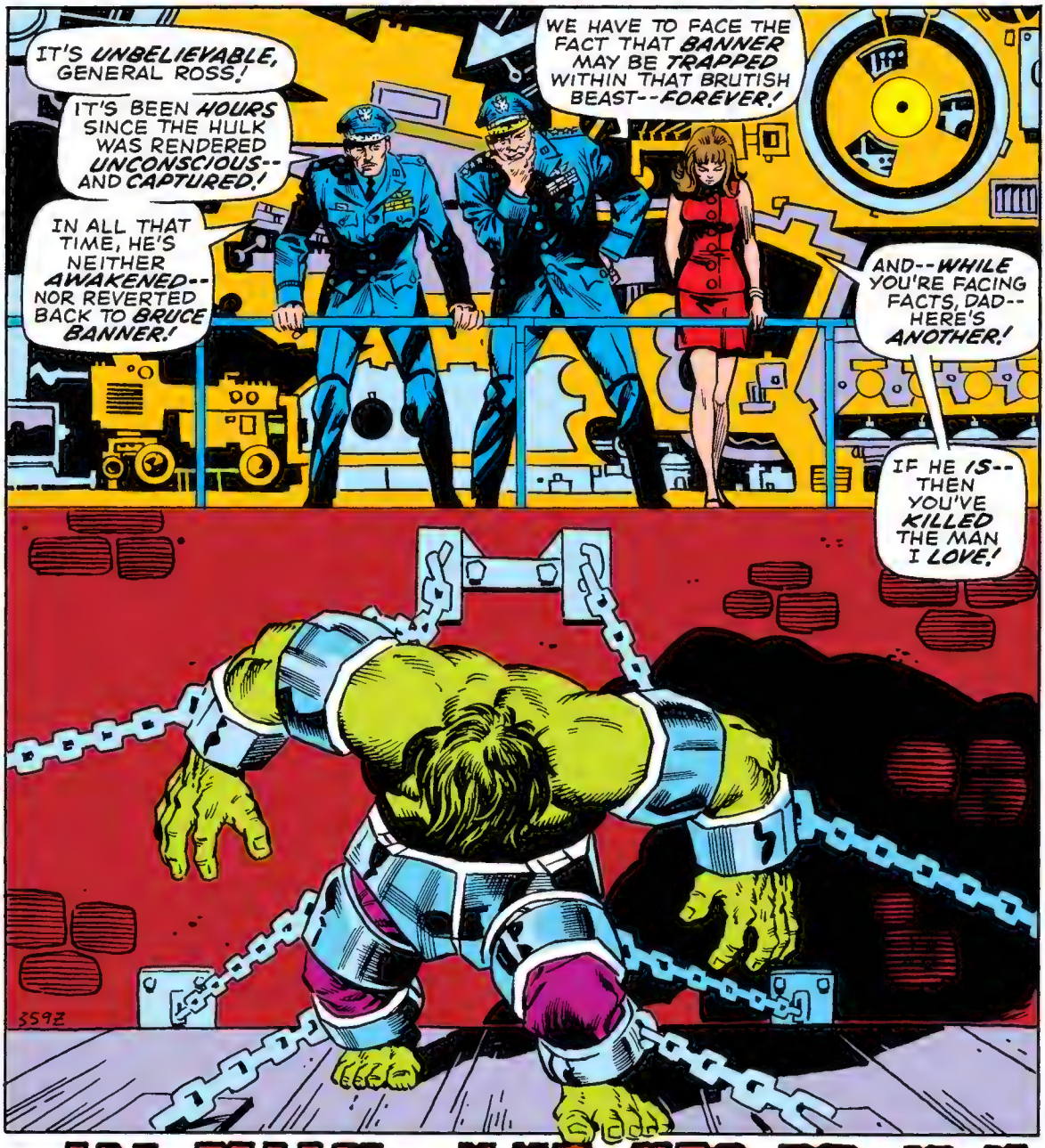
THE RAMPAGING HULK HAS STOOD AGAINST MANY WEAPONS-- MANY FOES! BUT, AGAINST THE GAMMA-RAY FORCES WHICH SPAWNED HIM--- EVEN HE IS BUT A STRAW IN HURRICANE WINDS--!
WE GOT 'IM, SIR! HE'S DOWN!
THEN KEEP FIRING TILL HE'S OUT-- AND WE CAN HAUL HIM BACK TO BASE!
AARRHH!
NO!

AT THE SOUND OF THIS SHOUTED, DESPERATE "NO!" ALL EYES TURN TOWARD THE SURROUNDING SHADOWS-- FROM WHICH RUNS A LITHE, FAMILIAR FIGURE-- A MAN WHOM ALL HAD IMAGINED OUT OF HARM'S WAY--!
BANNER--- HERE!?
THEN-- HULK CAN STILL HAVE-- HIS REVENGE--!
MAYBE-- BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE!
I COULDN'T REMAIN BEHIND WHILE OTHERS RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR MY SAKE!
GENERAL! HOLD YOUR FIRE-- TILL YOU CAN BLAST BOTH THE HULK AND ME TOGETHER!
YES, BANNER-- COME CLOSER-- SO HULK CAN KILL!!

BANNER! GET AWAY FROM HIM! THAT'S AN ORDER!
HAH! TOO LATE FOR ORDERS, HUMAN!
TOO LATE FOR ANYTHING-- BUT DEATH!
LORD! HE'S GOT BANNER-- IN THOSE GREAT HANDS OF HIS!
FIRE, BLAST YOU-- FIRE!
THE NEXT INSTANT, EVEN AS THAT STEEL-RENDING GRIP CLOSES AROUND BRUCE BANNER'S WRIST -- THE GAMMATRON ONCE MORE BLASTS AWAY--!
IT'S WORKING! THE TWO OF THEM ARE MERGING AGAIN!
ANOTHER COUPLE OF SECONDS, AND THE HULK MAY WELL BE GONE FOR G--
NO-- WAIT! IT'S NOT THE HULK WHO'S VANISHING---
IT'S-- BANNER!
ALL RIGHT-- THE HULK IS OUT, SLEEPIN' LIKE A BABY!
LOWER THAT MAGNO-CLAMP, AND WE'VE GOT HIM!
BUT-- DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED, SOLDIER?
ALWAYS BEFORE, WHEN PERIODS OF STRESS WERE OVER --THE HULK REVERTED TO BANNER!
IF HE DIDN'T DO SO NOW -- IT MAY MEAN THAT BANNER IS TRAPPED INSIDE HIM-- FOREVER!
WHATEVER HAPPENED, IT HAD TO BE DONE-- AND BANNER KNEW IT BETTER THAN ANY OF US!
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, JIM! YOU DID THE RIGHT THING!
THEN-- ALL I GOT TO SAY IS--
MAY GOD PROTECT US-- FROM GUYS WHO DO THE RIGHT THING!
NEXT: BANNER NO MORE!

INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
132
OCT
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
TM
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
...LIKE A BEAST AT BAY!
ENEMIES ALL AROUND HULK--ON EVERY SIDE!
HULK MUST FIGHT--OR DIE!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™


IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, GENERAL ROSS!
IT'S BEEN HOURS SINCE THE HULK WAS RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS-- AND CAPTURED!
IN ALL THAT TIME, HE'S NEITHER AWAKENED-- NOR REVERTED BACK TO BRUCE BANNER!
WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT BANNER MAY BE TRAPPED WITHIN THAT BRUTISH BEAST--FOREVER!
AND--WHILE YOU'RE FACING FACTS, DAD-- HERE'S ANOTHER!
IF HE IS-- THEN YOU'VE KILLED THE MAN I LOVE!
359Z

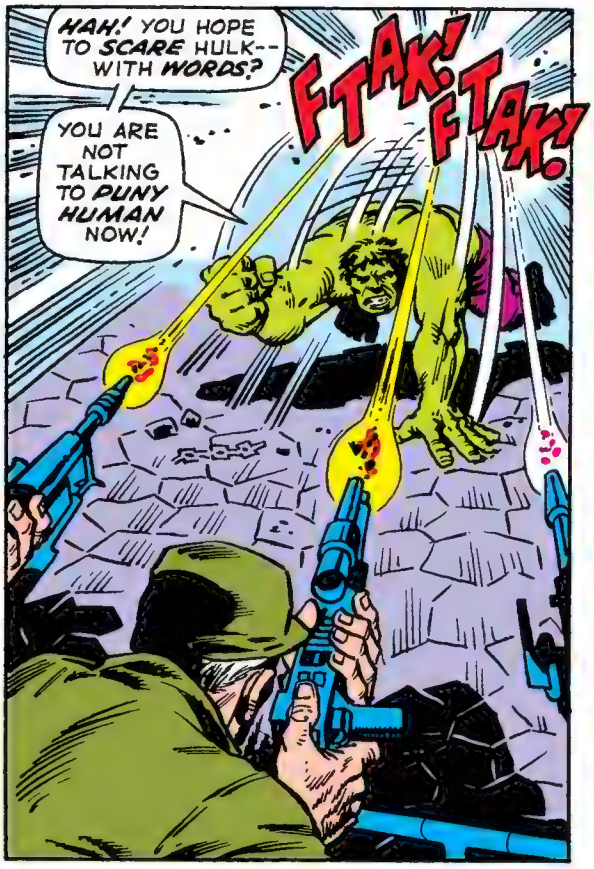
IN THE HANDS OF HYDRA!

STAN LEE *EDITOR* • ROY THOMAS *WRITER* • HERB TRIMPE *ARTIST* • JOHN SEVERIN *INKER* • A. SIMEK *LETTERER*

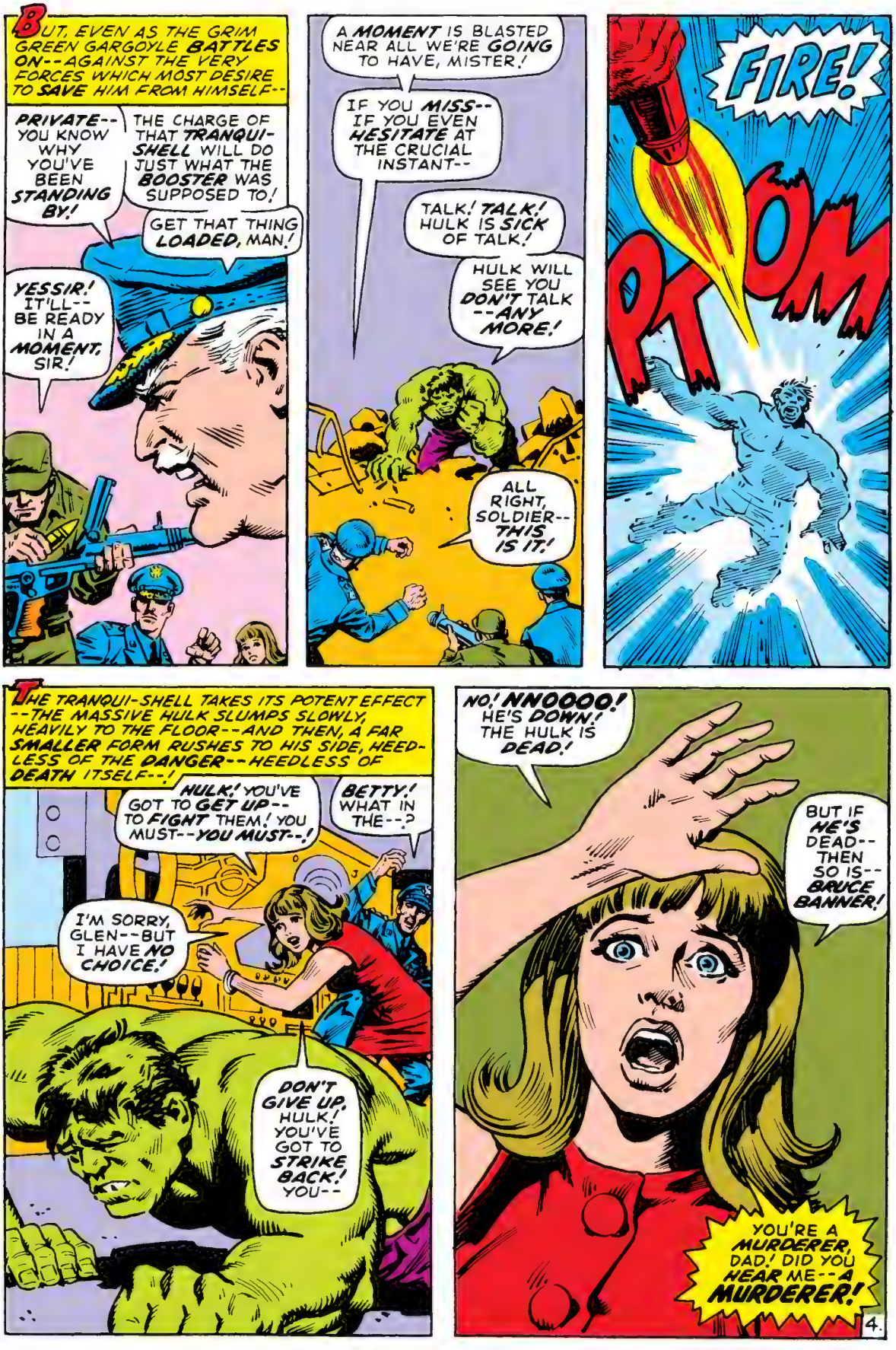
THIS ULTRA-TRANQUILIZER BOOSTER WILL ASSURE HE DOESN'T FULLY AWAKEN--TO BRING HIS TOTAL POWER TO BEAR ON HIS CHAINS!
NO HURRY, OF COURSE --IT SHOULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE HE RECOVERS FROM HIS LAST SHOT!
WAIT A MINUTE! THE MONSTER'S STIRRING!
HE'S-- AWAKE!
HAH! HULK FOOLED YOU!
HULK HAS BEEN AWAKE --FOR LONG TIME!
DIDN'T LET ON--JUST STOOD HERE --GETTING STRONGER--WAITING--!
GOOD GRIEF! DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YOU WHIMPERING TEST-TUBE JOCKEYS!
ADMINISTER THE DOSAGE--BEFORE HE BREAKS LOOSE!
WE--WE DON'T DARE GO NEAR HIM, SIR! HE'D TEAR US APART!
DON'T WORRY, GENERAL! THOSE CHAINS WOULD HOLD A MASTODON!
DON'T KNOW--WHAT MASTODON IS--AND DON'T CARE!
ONLY KNOW--PUNY CHAINS WON'T HOLD--
--THE HULK!!
RIP
RIP
RIP

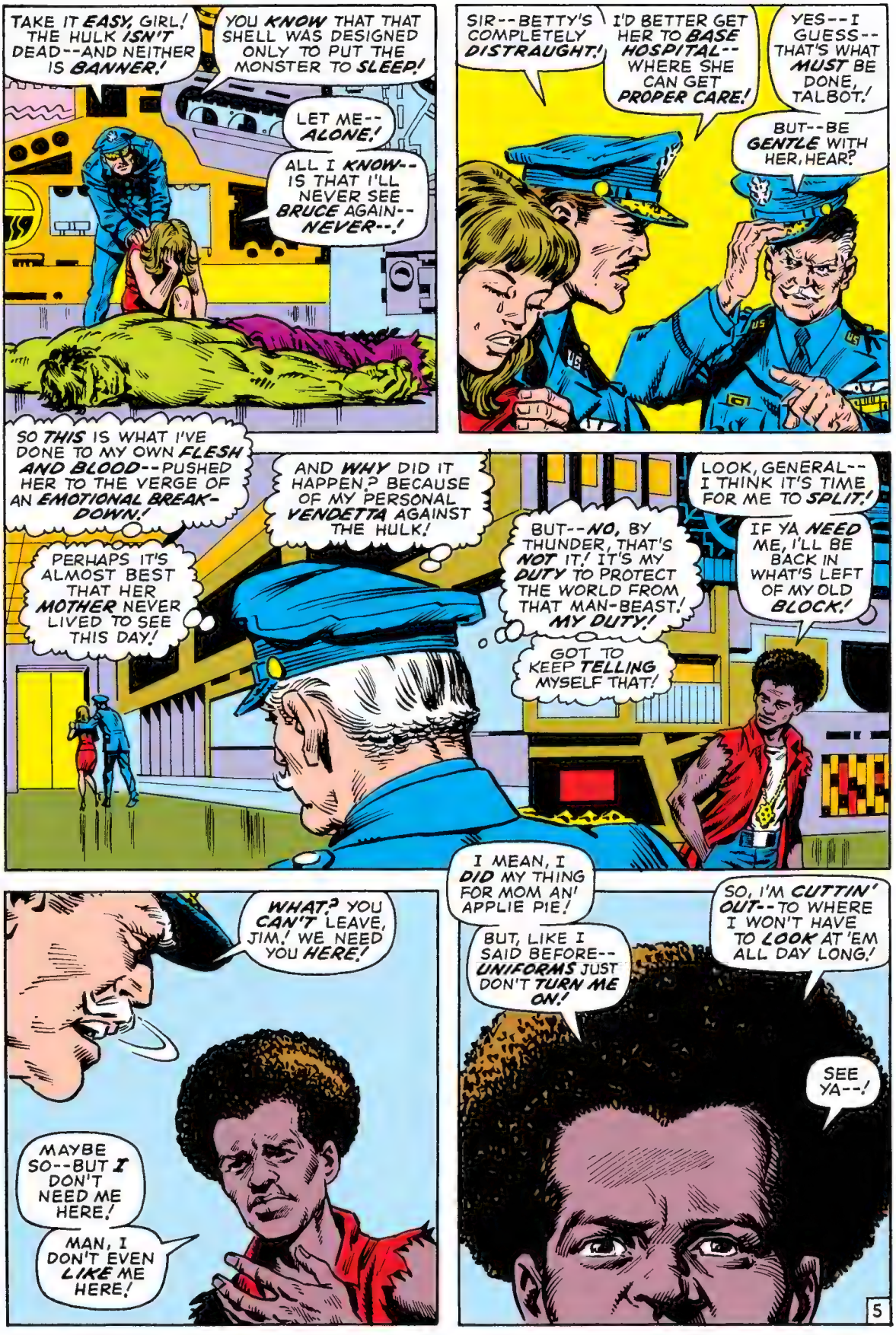
HE'S FREE! THE HULK HAS BROKEN FREE!!
YES--FREE!
AND HULK WILL STAY FREE--NO MATTER WHAT!

THE EMERGENCY SQUAD! YOU GOT HERE ON THE DOUBLE!
GENERAL ROSS--LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU--!
DUCK, SIR! HE'S HEADING RIGHT THIS WAY!
GOOD WORK, MEN!
HE WON'T ACT SO BIG AFTER OUR RIOT GUNS TAKE CARE OF HIM!

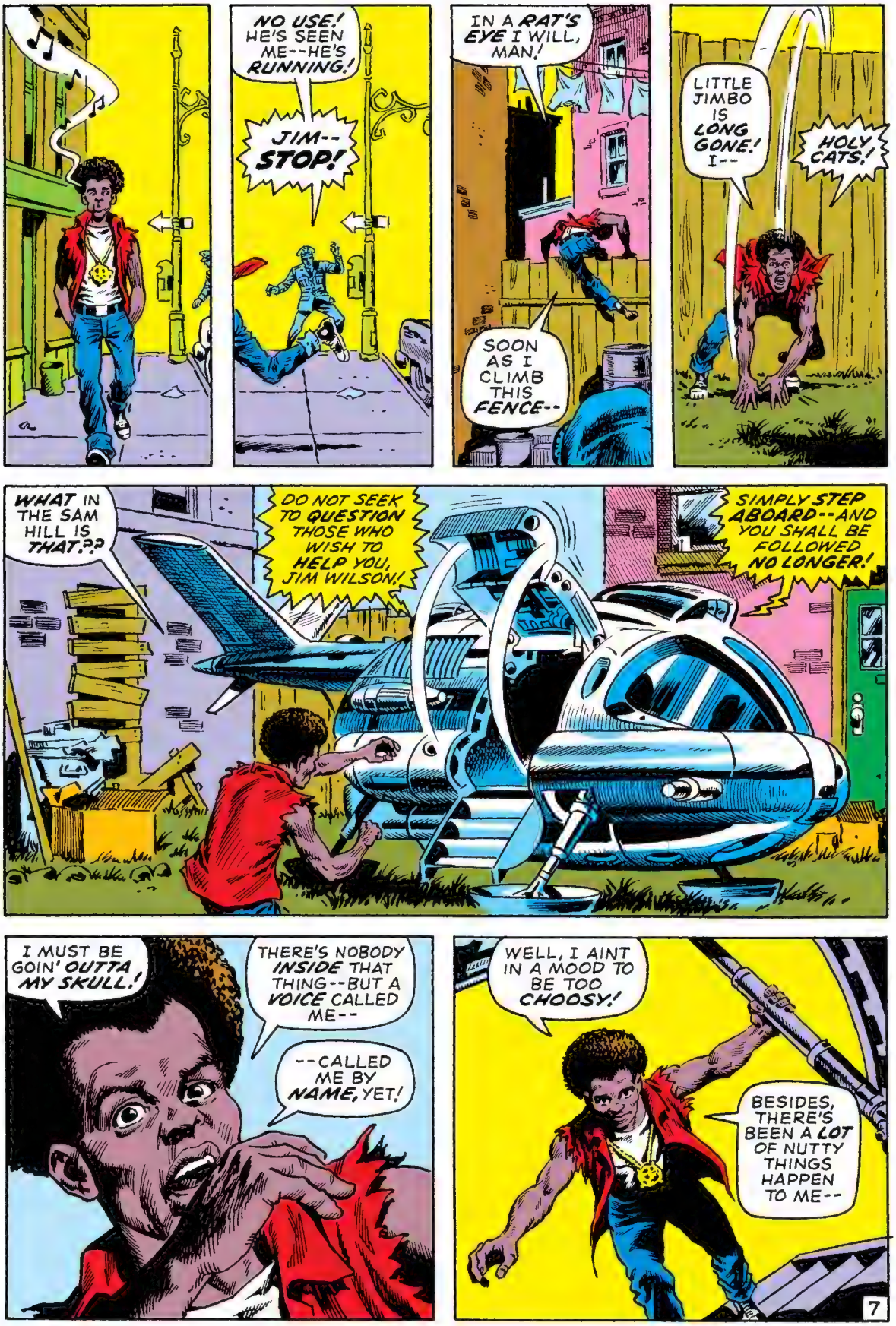

HAH! YOU HOPE TO SCARE HULK--WITH WORDS?
YOU ARE NOT TALKING TO PUNY HUMAN NOW!
FTAK! FTAK!

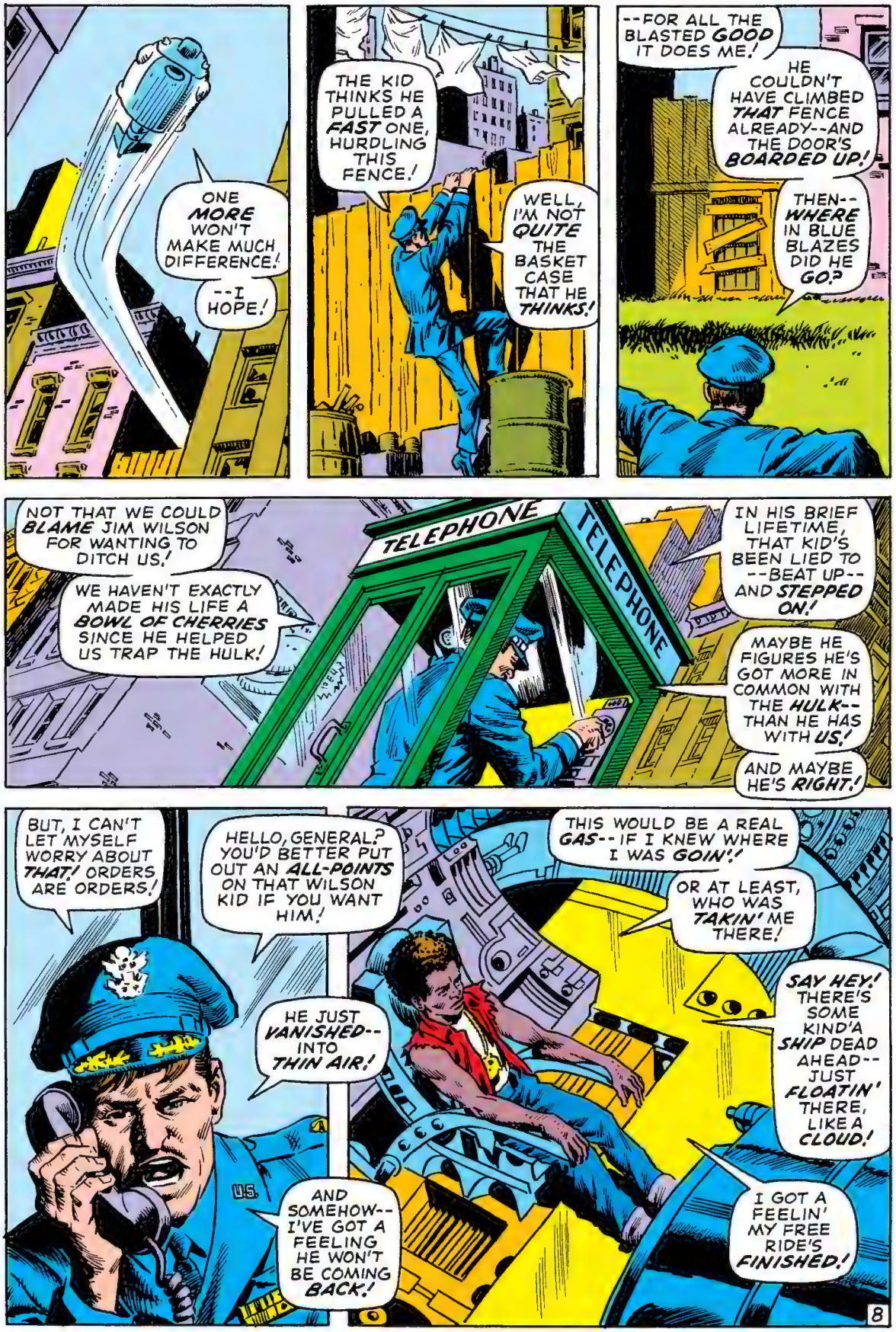
AND THE HULK FEARS--NOTHING!
WHOOM!

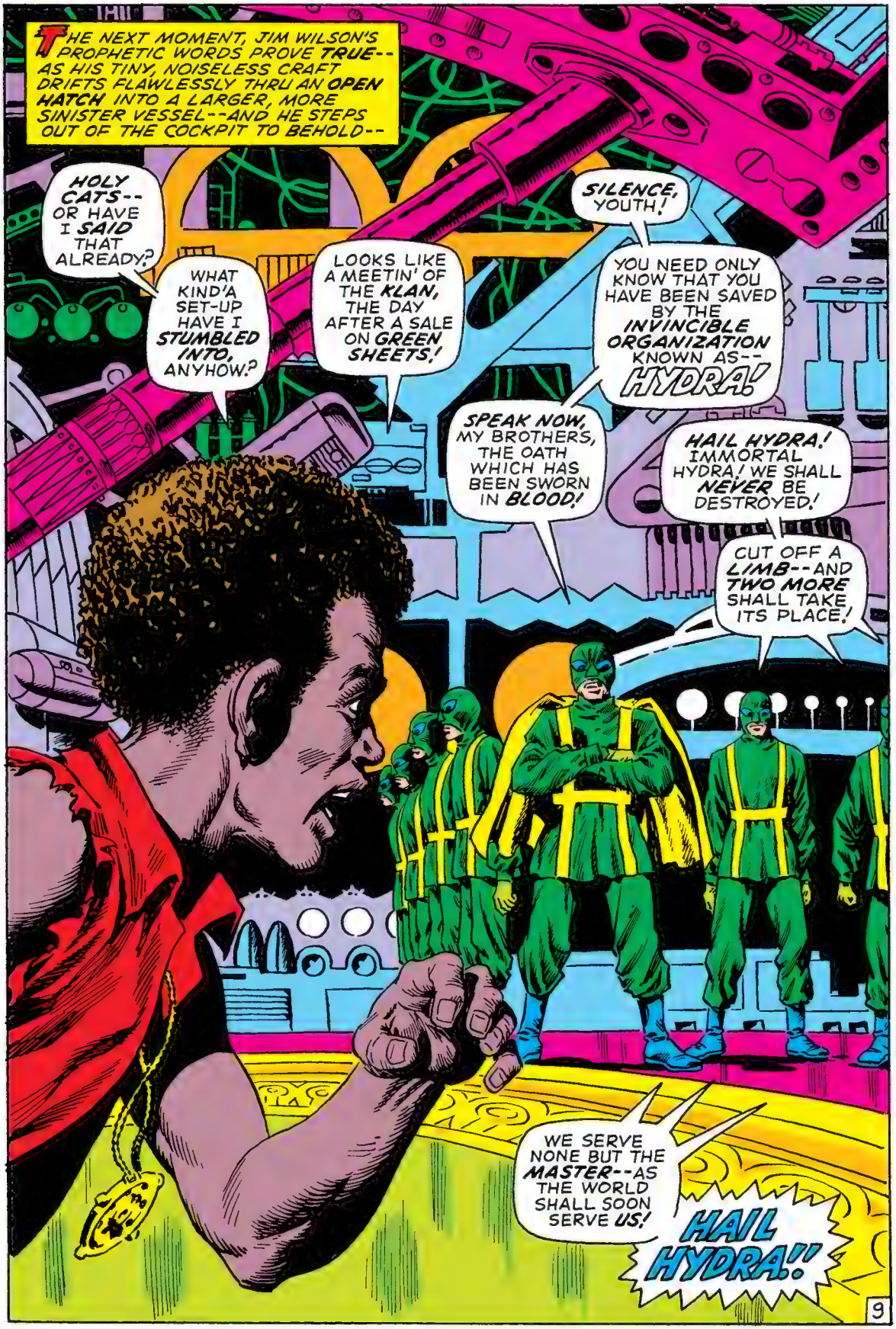

BUT, EVEN AS THE GRIM GREEN GARGOYLE BATTLES ON--AGAINST THE VERY FORCES WHICH MOST DESIRE TO SAVE HIM FROM HIMSELF--
PRIVATE--YOU KNOW WHY YOU'VE BEEN STANDING BY!
THE CHARGE OF THAT TRANQUI-SHELL WILL DO JUST WHAT THE BOOSTER WAS SUPPOSED TO!
GET THAT THING LOADED, MAN!
YESSIR! IT'LL--BE READY IN A MOMENT, SIR!
A MOMENT IS BLASTED NEAR ALL WE'RE GOING TO HAVE, MISTER!
IF YOU MISS--IF YOU EVEN HESITATE AT THE CRUCIAL INSTANT--
TALK! TALK! HULK IS SICK OF TALK!
HULK WILL SEE YOU DON'T TALK --ANY MORE!
ALL RIGHT, SOLDIER--THIS IS IT!
FIRE!
PTOOM
THE TRANQUI-SHELL TAKES ITS POTENT EFFECT --THE MASSIVE HULK SLUMPS SLOWLY, HEAVILY TO THE FLOOR--AND THEN, A FAR SMALLER FORM RUSHES TO HIS SIDE, HEEDLESS OF THE DANGER--HEEDLESS OF DEATH ITSELF--!
HULK! YOU'VE GOT TO GET UP--TO FIGHT THEM! YOU MUST--YOU MUST--!
BETTY! WHAT IN THE--?
I'M SORRY, GLEN--BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE!
DON'T GIVE UP, HULK! YOU'VE GOT TO STRIKE BACK! YOU--
NO! NNOOOO! HE'S DOWN! THE HULK IS DEAD!
BUT IF HE'S DEAD--THEN SO IS--BRUCE BANNER!
YOU'RE A MURDERER, DAD! DID YOU HEAR ME--A MURDERER!
4.

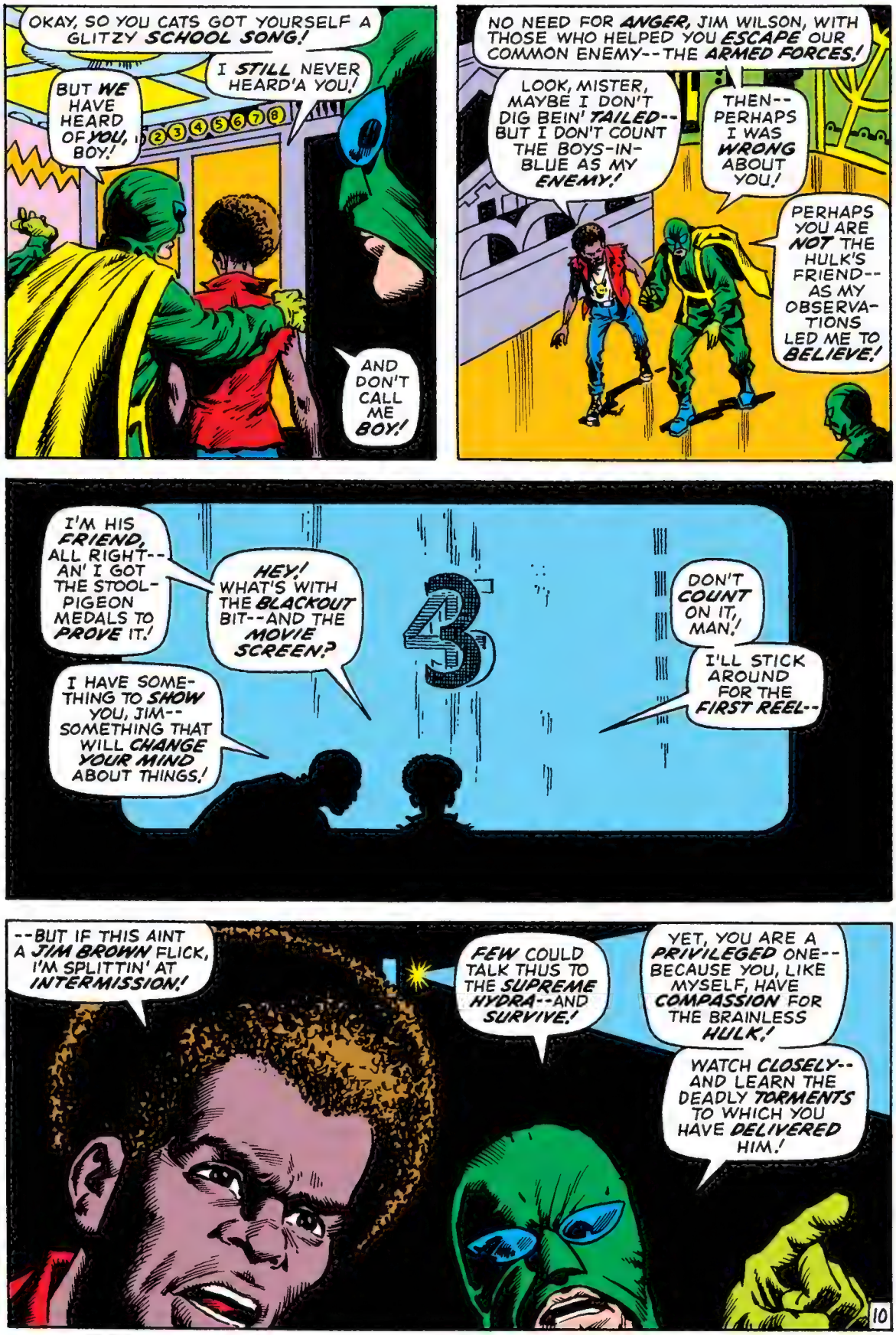

TAKE IT EASY, GIRL! THE HULK ISN'T DEAD--AND NEITHER IS BANNER!
YOU KNOW THAT THAT SHELL WAS DESIGNED ONLY TO PUT THE MONSTER TO SLEEP!
LET ME-- ALONE!
ALL I KNOW-- IS THAT I'LL NEVER SEE BRUCE AGAIN-- NEVER--!
SIR--BETTY'S COMPLETELY DISTRAUGHT!
I'D BETTER GET HER TO BASE HOSPITAL-- WHERE SHE CAN GET PROPER CARE!
YES--I GUESS-- THAT'S WHAT MUST BE DONE, TALBOT!
BUT--BE GENTLE WITH HER, HEAR?
SO THIS IS WHAT I'VE DONE TO MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD--PUSHED HER TO THE VERGE OF AN EMOTIONAL BREAK-DOWN!
PERHAPS IT'S ALMOST BEST THAT HER MOTHER NEVER LIVED TO SEE THIS DAY!
AND WHY DID IT HAPPEN? BECAUSE OF MY PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST THE HULK!
BUT--NO, BY THUNDER, THAT'S NOT IT! IT'S MY DUTY TO PROTECT THE WORLD FROM THAT MAN-BEAST! MY DUTY!
GOT TO KEEP TELLING MYSELF THAT!
LOOK, GENERAL-- I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SPLIT!
IF YA NEED ME, I'LL BE BACK IN WHAT'S LEFT OF MY OLD BLOCK!
WHAT? YOU CAN'T LEAVE, JIM! WE NEED YOU HERE!
MAYBE SO--BUT I DON'T NEED ME HERE!
MAN, I DON'T EVEN LIKE ME HERE!
I MEAN, I DID MY THING FOR MOM AN' APPLIE PIE!
BUT, LIKE I SAID BEFORE-- UNIFORMS JUST DON'T TURN ME ON!
SO, I'M CUTTIN' OUT--TO WHERE I WON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT 'EM ALL DAY LONG!
SEE YA--!
5

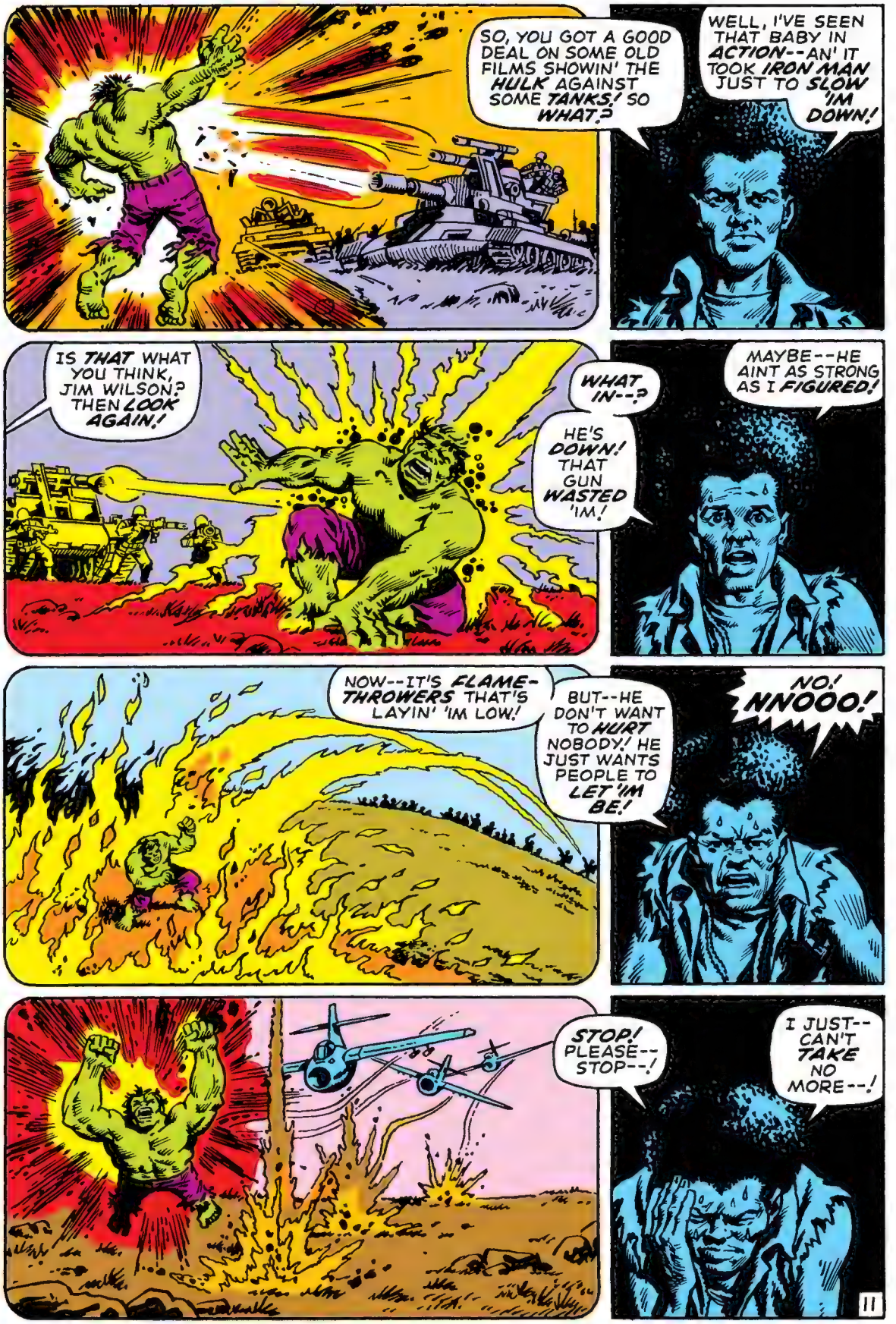
WHY'D YA HOLD BACK, JIMBO? WHY DIDN'T YA TELL IT LIKE IT IS?
SURE, YA DON'T LIKE UNIFORMS--BUT THAT AINT WHY YOU'RE DIGGIN' OUT!
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU BETRAYED THE HULK--THE CLOSEST THING YOU HAD TO A FRIEND SINCE MOM AN' DAD DIED!
THEY SAY I DID THE RIGHT THING --BUT JUST THE SAME--
THINK I'LL HEAD SOME-PLACE WHERE THERE AINT NO MIRRORS!
GATE 3
STOP
GLAD YOU MADE IT BACK SO FAST, TALBOT!
I WANT THAT KID FOLLOWED--AND YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN I CAN TRUST TO DO THE JOB RIGHT!
I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR--BUT MAY I ASK WHY?
THE HULK SEEMS TO TRUST KIDS--FIRST RICK JONES, NOW THIS ONE!
NOW MOVE, TALBOT--BEFORE HE PLAYS INVISIBLE MAN!
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THAT ACE-IN-THE HOLE!
...MAYBE I'M JUST GETTIN' SUSPICIOUS IN MY OLD AGE...
BUT I COULD SWEAR I HEARD ME SOME FOOTSTEPS A SECOND AGO...
FOOTSTEPS THAT STOPPED... SOON AS I TURNED AROUND!
YEP! OL' ROSS PUT A TAIL ON ME...THAT MAJOR CAT, NO LESS!
WELL, MISTER, IN MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD, YOU EITHER DO A BETTER JOB OF TAILIN' A GUY THAN THAT...
OR YOU WIND UP STARIN' AT A BLANK WALL!
...WHICH IS JUST WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO YOU!

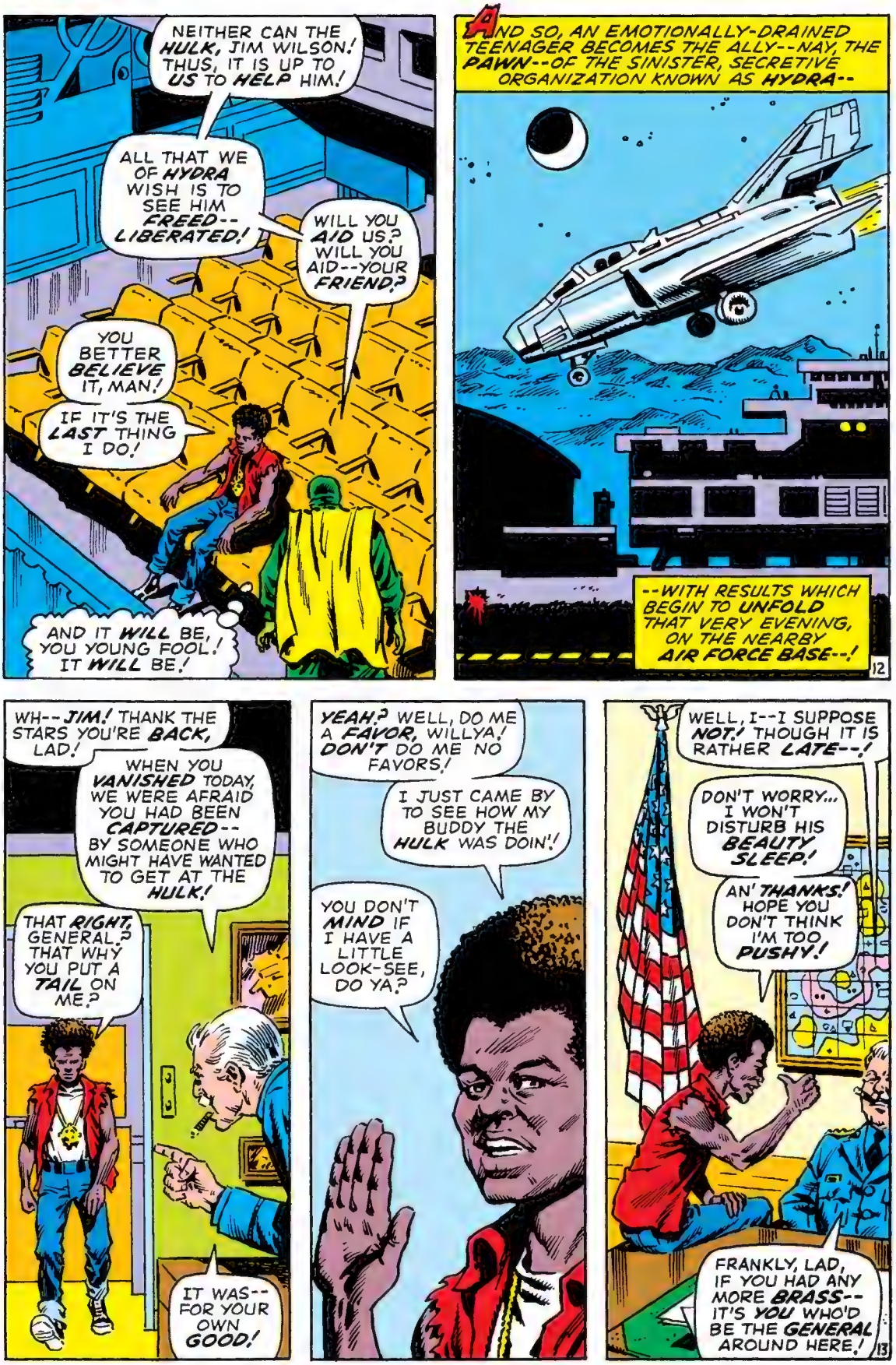

NO USE! HE'S SEEN ME--HE'S RUNNING!
JIM--STOP!
IN A RAT'S EYE I WILL, MAN!
SOON AS I CLIMB THIS FENCE--
LITTLE JIMBO IS LONG GONE! I--
HOLY CATS!
WHAT IN THE SAM HILL IS THAT??
DO NOT SEEK TO QUESTION THOSE WHO WISH TO HELP YOU, JIM WILSON!
SIMPLY STEP ABOARD--AND YOU SHALL BE FOLLOWED NO LONGER!
I MUST BE GOIN' OUTTA MY SKULL!
THERE'S NOBODY INSIDE THAT THING--BUT A VOICE CALLED ME--
--CALLED ME BY NAME, YET!
WELL, I AINT IN A MOOD TO BE TOO CHOOSY!
BESIDES, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF NUTTY THINGS HAPPEN TO ME--

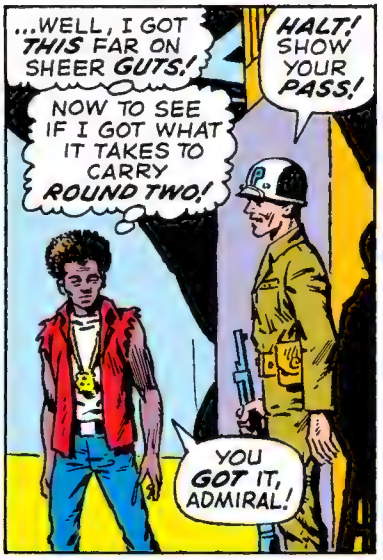

ONE MORE WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE!
--I HOPE!
THE KID THINKS HE PULLED A FAST ONE, HURDLING THIS FENCE!
WELL, I'M NOT QUITE THE BASKET CASE THAT HE THINKS!
--FOR ALL THE BLASTED GOOD IT DOES ME!
HE COULDN'T HAVE CLIMBED THAT FENCE ALREADY--AND THE DOOR'S BOARDED UP!
THEN--WHERE IN BLUE BLAZES DID HE GO?
NOT THAT WE COULD BLAME JIM WILSON FOR WANTING TO DITCH US!
WE HAVEN'T EXACTLY MADE HIS LIFE A BOWL OF CHERRIES SINCE HE HELPED US TRAP THE HULK!
TELEPHONE
TELEPHONE
IN HIS BRIEF LIFETIME, THAT KID'S BEEN LIED TO --BEAT UP-- AND STEPPED ON!
MAYBE HE FIGURES HE'S GOT MORE IN COMMON WITH THE HULK-- THAN HE HAS WITH US!
AND MAYBE HE'S RIGHT!
BUT, I CAN'T LET MYSELF WORRY ABOUT THAT! ORDERS ARE ORDERS!
HELLO, GENERAL? YOU'D BETTER PUT OUT AN ALL-POINTS ON THAT WILSON KID IF YOU WANT HIM!
HE JUST VANISHED-- INTO THIN AIR!
AND SOMEHOW-- I'VE GOT A FEELING HE WON'T BE COMING BACK!
U.S.
THIS WOULD BE A REAL GAS--IF I KNEW WHERE I WAS GOIN'!
OR AT LEAST, WHO WAS TAKIN' ME THERE!
SAY HEY! THERE'S SOME KIND'A SHIP DEAD AHEAD-- JUST FLOATIN' THERE, LIKE A CLOUD!
I GOT A FEELIN' MY FREE RIDE'S FINISHED!


THE NEXT MOMENT, JIM WILSON'S PROPHETIC WORDS PROVE TRUE--AS HIS TINY, NOISELESS CRAFT DRIFTS FLAWLESSLY THRU AN OPEN HATCH INTO A LARGER, MORE SINISTER VESSEL--AND HE STEPS OUT OF THE COCKPIT TO BEHOLD--
HOLY CATS--OR HAVE I SAID THAT ALREADY?
WHAT KIND'A SET-UP HAVE I STUMBLED INTO, ANYHOW?
LOOKS LIKE A MEETIN' OF THE KLAN, THE DAY AFTER A SALE ON GREEN SHEETS!
SILENCE, YOUTH!
YOU NEED ONLY KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED BY THE INVINCIBLE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS--HYDRA!
SPEAK NOW, MY BROTHERS, THE OATH WHICH HAS BEEN SWORN IN BLOOD!
HAIL HYDRA! IMMORTAL HYDRA! WE SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED!
CUT OFF A LIMB--AND TWO MORE SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE!
WE SERVE NONE BUT THE MASTER--AS THE WORLD SHALL SOON SERVE US!
HAIL HYDRA!!


OKAY, SO YOU CATS GOT YOURSELF A GLITZY SCHOOL SONG!
I STILL NEVER HEARD'A YOU!
BUT WE HAVE HEARD OF YOU, BOY!
AND DON'T CALL ME BOY!
NO NEED FOR ANGER, JIM WILSON, WITH THOSE WHO HELPED YOU ESCAPE OUR COMMON ENEMY--THE ARMED FORCES!
LOOK, MISTER, MAYBE I DON'T DIG BEIN' TAILED--BUT I DON'T COUNT THE BOYS-IN-BLUE AS MY ENEMY!
THEN--PERHAPS I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU!
PERHAPS YOU ARE NOT THE HULK'S FRIEND--AS MY OBSERVATIONS LED ME TO BELIEVE!
I'M HIS FRIEND, ALL RIGHT--AN' I GOT THE STOOL-PIGEON MEDALS TO PROVE IT!
HEY! WHAT'S WITH THE BLACKOUT BIT--AND THE MOVIE SCREEN?
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU, JIM--SOMETHING THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT THINGS!
3
DON'T COUNT ON IT, MAN!
I'LL STICK AROUND FOR THE FIRST REEL--
--BUT IF THIS AINT A JIM BROWN FLICK, I'M SPLITTIN' AT INTERMISSION!
FEW COULD TALK THUS TO THE SUPREME HYDRA--AND SURVIVE!
YET, YOU ARE A PRIVILEGED ONE--BECAUSE YOU, LIKE MYSELF, HAVE COMPASSION FOR THE BRAINLESS HULK!
WATCH CLOSELY--AND LEARN THE DEADLY TORMENTS TO WHICH YOU HAVE DELIVERED HIM!

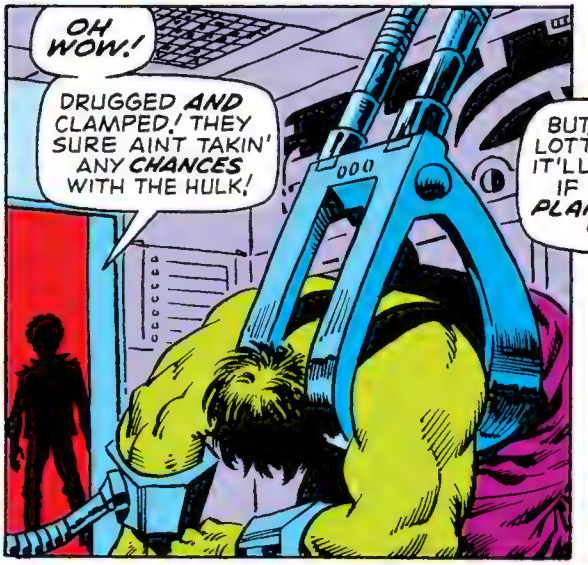

SO, YOU GOT A GOOD DEAL ON SOME OLD FILMS SHOWIN' THE HULK AGAINST SOME TANKS! SO WHAT?
WELL, I'VE SEEN THAT BABY IN ACTION--AN' IT TOOK IRON MAN JUST TO SLOW 'IM DOWN!
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK, JIM WILSON? THEN LOOK AGAIN!
WHAT IN--?
HE'S DOWN! THAT GUN WASTED 'IM!
MAYBE--HE AINT AS STRONG AS I FIGURED!
NOW--IT'S FLAME-THROWERS THAT'S LAYIN' 'IM LOW!
BUT--HE DON'T WANT TO HURT NOBODY! HE JUST WANTS PEOPLE TO LET 'IM BE!
NO! NNOOO!
STOP! PLEASE--STOP--!
I JUST--CAN'T TAKE NO MORE--!

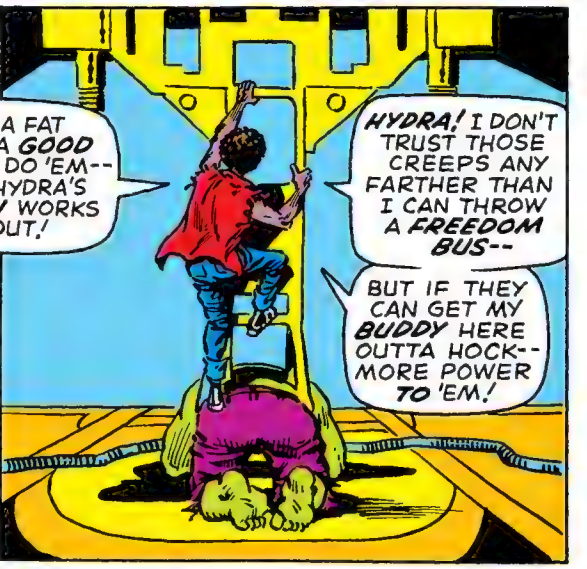

NEITHER CAN THE HULK, JIM WILSON! THUS, IT IS UP TO US TO HELP HIM!
ALL THAT WE OF HYDRA WISH IS TO SEE HIM FREED--LIBERATED!
WILL YOU AID US? WILL YOU AID--YOUR FRIEND?
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT, MAN!
IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
AND IT WILL BE, YOU YOUNG FOOL! IT WILL BE!
AND SO, AN EMOTIONALLY-DRAINED TEENAGER BECOMES THE ALLY--NAY, THE PAWN--OF THE SINISTER, SECRETIVE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS HYDRA--
--WITH RESULTS WHICH BEGIN TO UNFOLD THAT VERY EVENING, ON THE NEARBY AIR FORCE BASE--!
12
WH--JIM! THANK THE STARS YOU'RE BACK, LAD!
WHEN YOU VANISHED TODAY, WE WERE AFRAID YOU HAD BEEN CAPTURED--BY SOMEONE WHO MIGHT HAVE WANTED TO GET AT THE HULK!
THAT RIGHT, GENERAL? THAT WHY YOU PUT A TAIL ON ME?
IT WAS--FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
YEAH? WELL, DO ME A FAVOR, WILLYA! DON'T DO ME NO FAVORS!
I JUST CAME BY TO SEE HOW MY BUDDY THE HULK WAS DOIN'!
YOU DON'T MIND IF I HAVE A LITTLE LOOK-SEE, DO YA?
WELL, I--I SUPPOSE NOT! THOUGH IT IS RATHER LATE--!
DON'T WORRY... I WON'T DISTURB HIS BEAUTY SLEEP!
AN' THANKS! HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I'M TOO PUSHY!
FRANKLY, LAD, IF YOU HAD ANY MORE BRASS--IT'S YOU WHO'D BE THE GENERAL AROUND HERE!
13

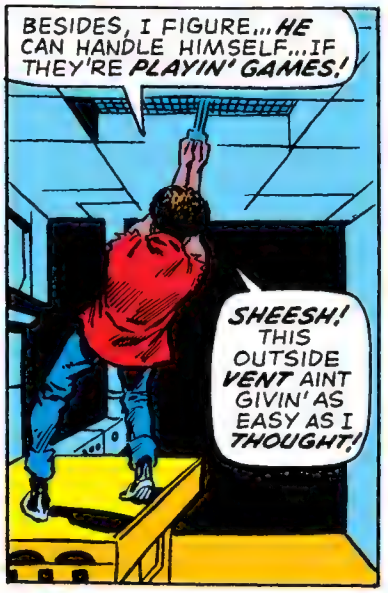

...WELL, I GOT THIS FAR ON SHEER GUTS!
HALT! SHOW YOUR PASS!
NOW TO SEE IF I GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO CARRY ROUND TWO!
YOU GOT IT, ADMIRAL!

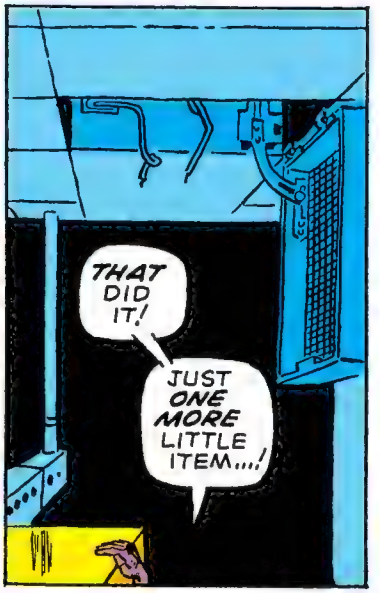
WHOA, JIMBO,,,DON'T SASS IT UP TOO BIG!
YOU DON'T WANT THIS GUY MAD ENOUGH TO SNEAK A PEEK AT YOU WHILE YOU'RE WITH OL' GREEN-SKIN!
MILITARY PASS
AUTHORIZED BY LT. GEN. T. E. ROSS

NOW, SOLDIER, YOU CAN GO BACK TO PLAYIN' GUARD--
--NOW THAT YOU JUST LET THE TROJAN HORSE THRU THE GATES!

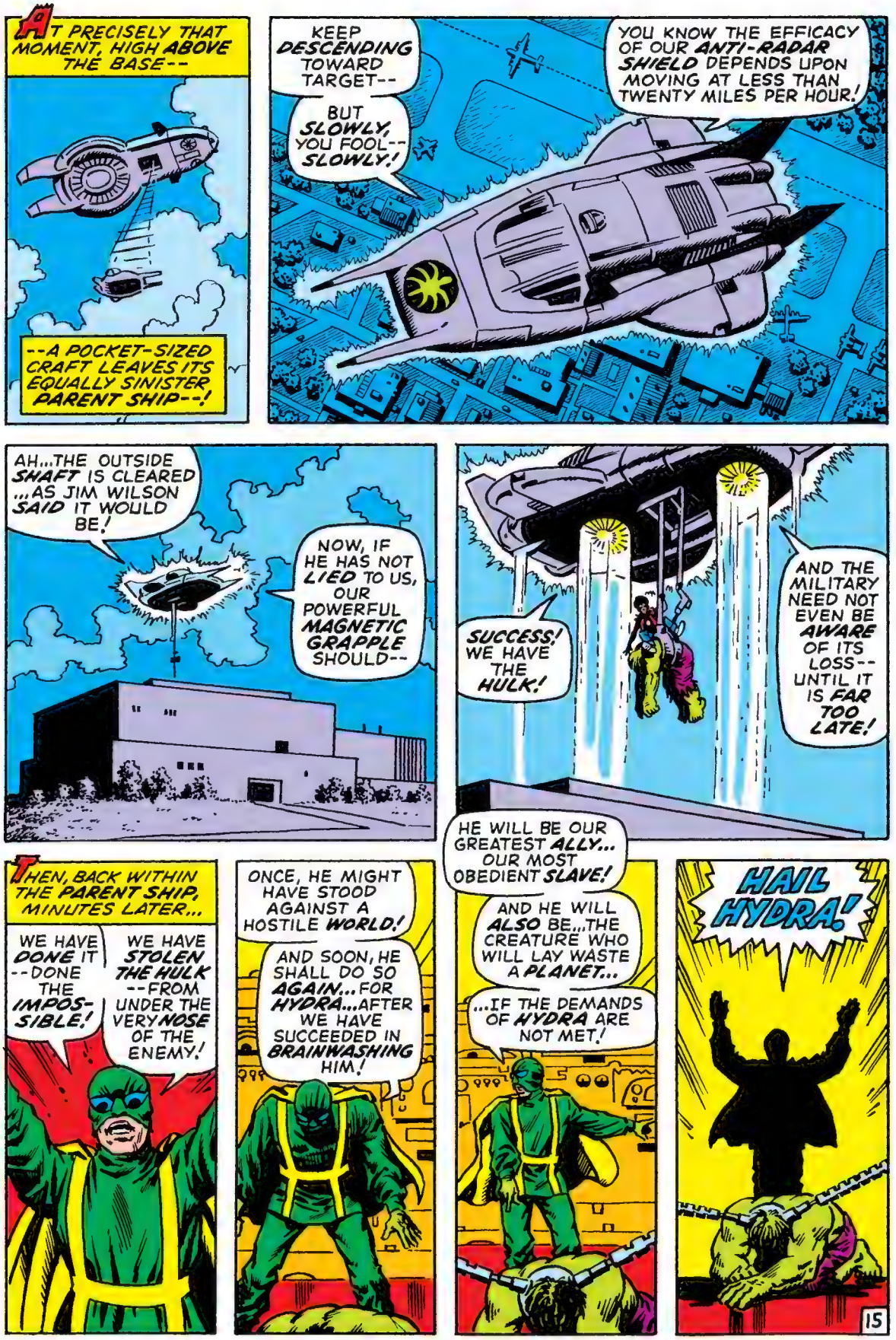

OH WOW!
DRUGGED AND CLAMPED! THEY SURE AIN'T TAKIN' ANY CHANCES WITH THE HULK!


BUT, A FAT LOTTA GOOD IT'LL DO 'EM-- IF HYDRA'S PLAN WORKS OUT!
HYDRA! I DON'T TRUST THOSE CREEPS ANY FARTHER THAN I CAN THROW A FREEDOM BUS--
BUT IF THEY CAN GET MY BUDDY HERE OUTTA HOCK-- MORE POWER TO 'EM!


BESIDES, I FIGURE... HE CAN HANDLE HIMSELF...IF THEY'RE PLAYIN' GAMES!
SHEESH! THIS OUTSIDE VENT AINT GIVIN' AS EASY AS I THOUGHT!


THAT DID IT!
JUST ONE MORE LITTLE ITEM....!

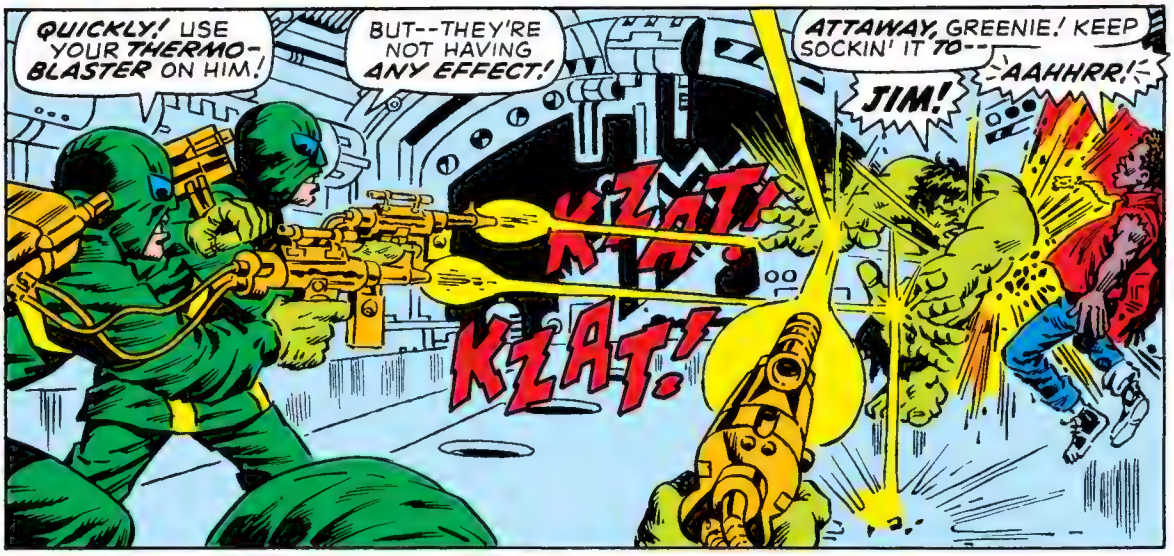
WASN'T IT COOL OF GENERAL ROSS TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT THIS ALARM SYSTEM-- SO I WOULDN'T ACCIDENTALLY SET IT OFF!
WE WOULDN'T WANNA DO THAT NOW, WOULD WE?


AT PRECISELY THAT MOMENT, HIGH ABOVE THE BASE--
--A POCKET-SIZED CRAFT LEAVES ITS EQUALLY SINISTER PARENT SHIP--!
KEEP DESCENDING TOWARD TARGET--
BUT SLOWLY, YOU FOOL-- SLOWLY!
YOU KNOW THE EFFICACY OF OUR ANTI-RADAR SHIELD DEPENDS UPON MOVING AT LESS THAN TWENTY MILES PER HOUR!
AH...THE OUTSIDE SHAFT IS CLEARED ...AS JIM WILSON SAID IT WOULD BE!
NOW, IF HE HAS NOT LIED TO US, OUR POWERFUL MAGNETIC GRAPPLE SHOULD--
SUCCESS! WE HAVE THE HULK!
AND THE MILITARY NEED NOT EVEN BE AWARE OF ITS LOSS-- UNTIL IT IS FAR TOO LATE!
THEN, BACK WITHIN THE PARENT SHIP, MINUTES LATER...
WE HAVE DONE IT --DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE!
WE HAVE STOLEN THE HULK --FROM UNDER THE VERY NOSE OF THE ENEMY!
ONCE, HE MIGHT HAVE STOOD AGAINST A HOSTILE WORLD!
AND SOON, HE SHALL DO SO AGAIN... FOR HYDRA...AFTER WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BRAINWASHING HIM!
HE WILL BE OUR GREATEST ALLY... OUR MOST OBEDIENT SLAVE!
AND HE WILL ALSO BE...THE CREATURE WHO WILL LAY WASTE A PLANET...
...IF THE DEMANDS OF HYDRA ARE NOT MET!
HAIL HYDRA!
15

HOLD IT, HYDIE! I DON'T DIG THAT KIND'A TALK!
WHAT? YOU DARE TO QUESTION THE SUPREME HYDRA'S WORD?
YOU SWORE TO SET THE HULK FREE-- REMEMBER?
YOU HAVE BEEN DECEIVED FROM THE VERY FIRST... BOY!
EVEN THE HULK IN THE FILMS YOU SAW WAS BUT A ROBOT BEING TESTED BY THE ARMY!
GUARDS! DUMP THIS YOUNG FOOL OVERBOARD!
HULK--YOU GOTTA BREAK FREE! YOU GOTTA--!
HE HEARS YOUR VOICE--HE BEGINS TO AWAKEN!
BUT, IT WILL DO HIM NO GOOD!
THAT COLLAR DRAINS HIM OF HIS WILL POWER--AS EFFECTIVELY AS DID THE ARMY'S DEVICE!
AND YOU DELIVERED HIM TO US! REMEMBER THAT--AS YOU DIE!
HEAR... VOICES! WHAT... IS...?
BOY WAS TRYING TO HELP HULK--AND YOU HIT HIM!
HULK WILL GET YOU--AFTER HE GETS OFF COLLAR --THAT MAKES HIM FEEL WEAK!
COLLAR DOESN'T --WANT TO BREAK! SO HULK MUST PULL HARDER-- HARDER!
HULK CAN BREAK THRU ANYTHING-- ANYTHING!
ANYTHING!
16

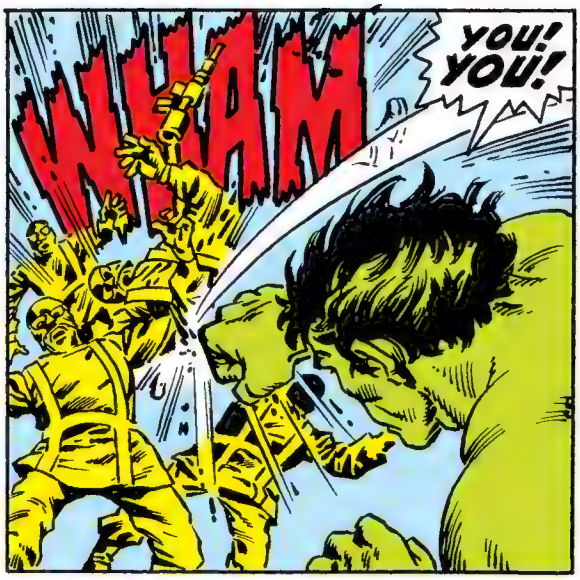
HE'S BROKEN FREE!
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TRY TO RECAPTURE HIM!
KILL HIM-- NOW!!
HULK DOESN'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE--OR HOW YOU BROUGHT HIM HERE--
BUT, HULK KNOWS ONE THING--!

YOU ARE NOT HULK'S FRIENDS!
RRAAK

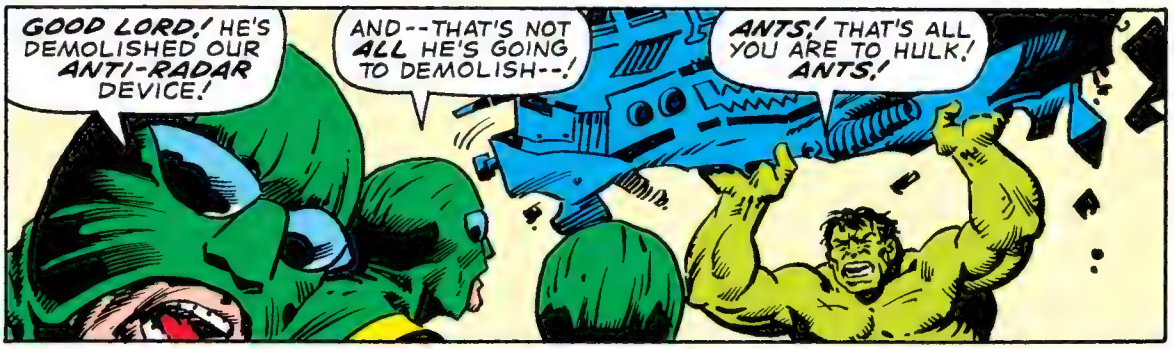

QUICKLY! USE YOUR THERMO-BLASTER ON HIM!
BUT--THEY'RE NOT HAVING ANY EFFECT!
ATTAWAY, GREENIE! KEEP SOCKIN' IT TO--
AAHHRR!
JIM!
KZAT!
KZAT!

BLASTS BOUNCED OFF HULK--COULDN'T KILL HULK!
BUT THEY MUST HAVE HIT JIM! HE IS HURT!

AND...YOU...ARE...THE...ONES...WHO...DID...IT!!


WHAM
YOU! YOU!

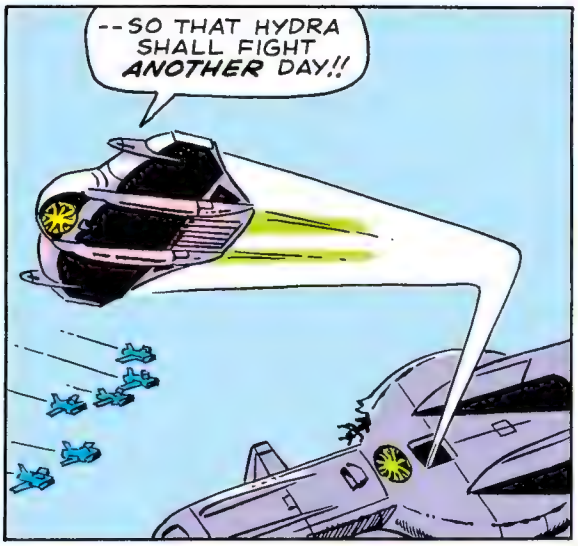
HULK WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID!
HULK WILL SMASH ALL OF YOU--WITH MACHINE RIPPED OUT OF WALL!
SKRUTCH!


GOOD LORD! HE'S DEMOLISHED OUR ANTI-RADAR DEVICE!
AND--THAT'S NOT ALL HE'S GOING TO DEMOLISH--!
ANTS! THAT'S ALL YOU ARE TO HULK! ANTS!

AND HULK STEPS ON ANTS!!

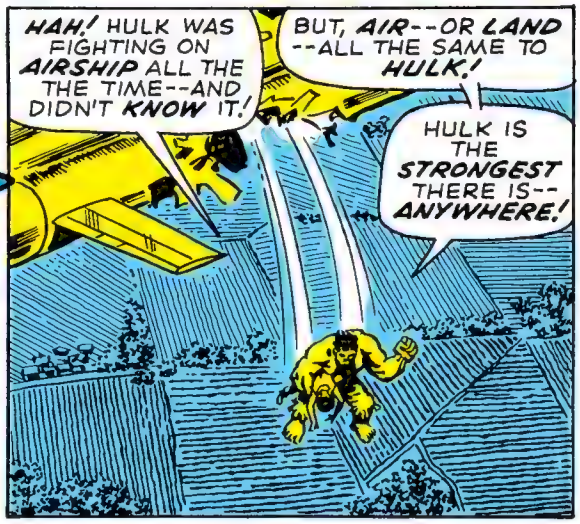
...SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON HERE, SIR!
WE JUST GOT A READING ON SOME SORT OF AIRCRAFT HOVERING OVER THE BASE--A BIG ONE!
ONE SECOND IT WASN'T THERE--THE NEXT SECOND IT WAS!
SEND SOME FLYBOYS UP TO CHECK IT OUT--ON THE DOUBLE!
WE CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON ANYTHING--NOT WITH THE HULK LOCKED AWAY ON THE BASE!

YES, SIR! I'LL--
WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT, SOLDIER?
MUST SPEAK TO THE GENERAL AT ONCE, MAJOR--ABOUT THE HULK!
GREAT THUNDER! DON'T TELL ME--!
I'M--AFRAID YOU'VE PROBABLY GUESSED IT, GENERAL ROSS!
THE HULK'S GONE--RIGHT THRU THE ROOF!
NO SIGN OF THAT WILSON KID, EITHER--LOOKS LIKE HE WAS IN ON THE DEAL!
BLAST IT ALL! THAT KID WAS A TOUGH TALKER--BUT I'D HAVE STAKED MY LIFE HE WAS OKAY!
STILL, HE SURE AS BLAZES DIDN'T HAVE A PLANE UP HIS JEANS!
NO, BY THUNDER--THERE'S MORE TO THIS THING!
WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS--
--AND I MEAN NOW!
SUPREME ONE!
A TASK FORCE OF JETCOPTERS APPROACHES OFF STARBOARD!
AND--THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE HULK HAS IMPAIRED OUR ABILITY TO DEFEND THE VESSEL!
SUGGEST WE ABANDON SHIP, SUPREME ONE!
STOP TALKING, YOU DOLT--AND MAN THE LIFE-CRAFT!
NOW--WHILE THE HULK IS BUSY LOOKING AFTER THE BOY!
HURRY--OR NONE OF US SHALL ESCAPE--


--SO THAT HYDRA SHALL FIGHT ANOTHER DAY!!

JIM WILSON IS STILL ALIVE--BUT HE'S SO STILL--SO WEAK!
MAYBE HE NEEDS AIR--MORE AIR!

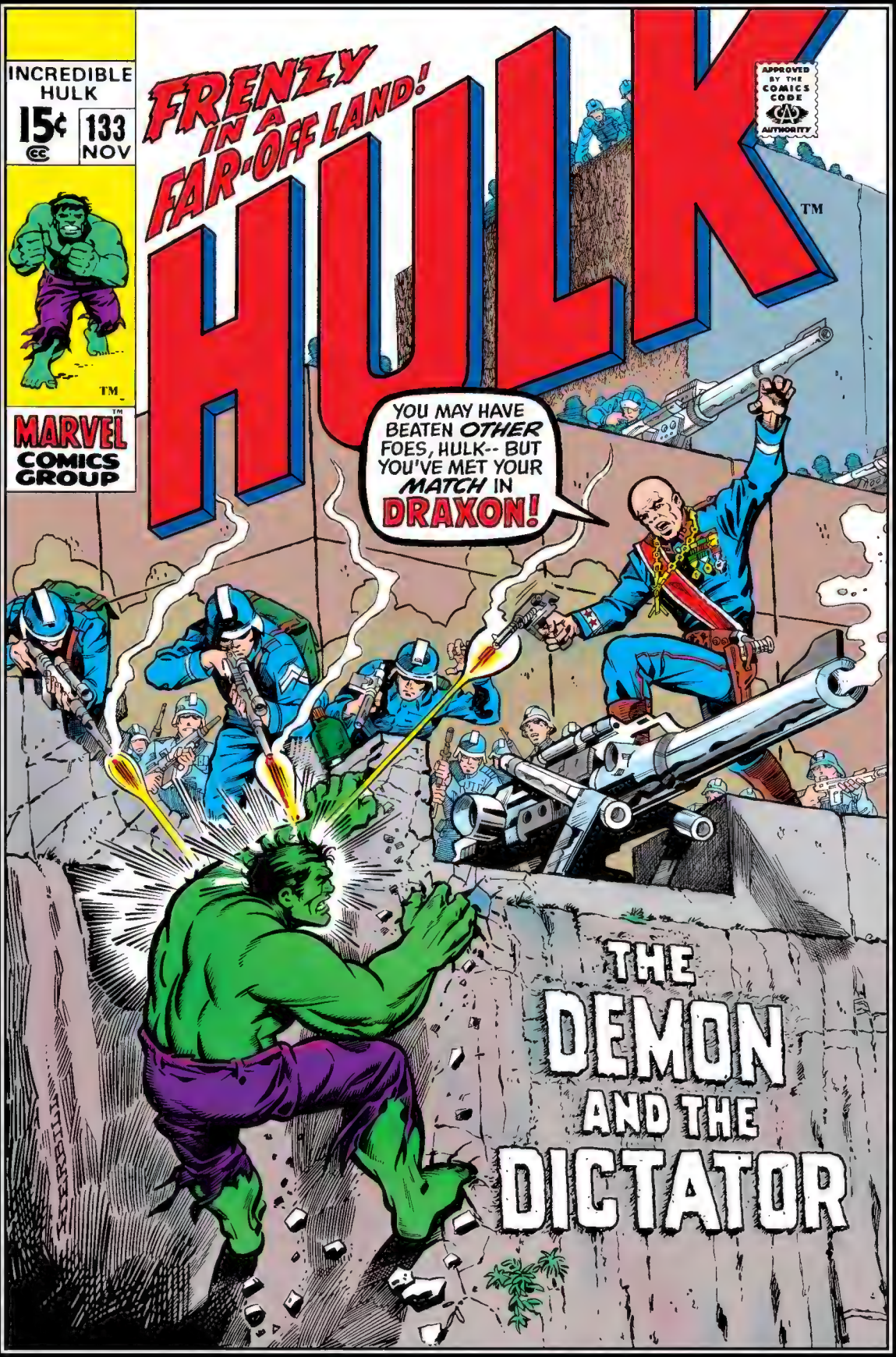
THEN--HE'LL HAVE AIR!
RRATCH!


HAH! HULK WAS FIGHTING ON AIRSHIP ALL THE THE TIME--AND DIDN'T KNOW IT!
BUT, AIR--OR LAND --ALL THE SAME TO HULK!
HULK IS THE STRONGEST THERE IS--ANYWHERE!

QUITE A HAUL, GENERAL! A FANCY NEW SHIP...AND SOME MIGHTY BANGED-UP AGENTS OF HYDRA!
BUT NO SIGN OF THE KID OR THE HULK...UNLESS YOU COUNT THE MAN-SIZED HOLES IN THE SIDE OF THIS BABY!

WE HAD HIM... AND LET HIM SLIP THRU OUR FINGERS!
MAY THE LORD FORGIVE US IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM...OR TO THAT SHERMAN TANK OF A KID!

...YES, HULK IS THE STRONGEST THERE IS!
AND IF THE BOY DIES... BECAUSE MEN SHOT HIM...
HULK WILL GET EVEN... IF HE HAS TO SMASH THE WHOLE WORLD!
THE HULK SWEARS IT!
NEXT: RAMPAGE!


INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
133
NOV
FRENZY IN A FAR-OFF LAND!
HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
YOU MAY HAVE BEATEN OTHER FOES, HULK-- BUT YOU'VE MET YOUR MATCH IN DRAXON!
THE DEMON AND THE DICTATOR

DAY OF THUNDER.. NIGHT OF DEATH!
HULK CAN LIFT BUILDINGS IN THE AIR... SMASH THRU SOLID STEEL!
BUT THE BOY IS DYING.. AND HULK CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE HIM!
HULK NEVER FELT SO WEAK BEFORE... SO HELPLESS..
STAN LEE EDITOR • ROY THOMAS WRITER • HERB TRIMPE ARTIST • JOHN SEVERIN INKER • SAM ROSEN, LETTERER
391 2

DO YOU REMEMBER WHY JIM WILSON LIES SO DEATHLY STILL, HULK? DOES YOUR BECLOUDED BRAIN RECALL HIS DESPERATE EFFORT TO FREE YOU FROM THE SNARES OF HYDRA---
-- OR THE RICOCHETING RAY-BLAST WHICH ALL BUT SNUFFED OUT HIS YOUNG LIFE?
WAIT! THE BOY MOVES-- GROANS--!
THEN-- MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE-- NOT YET!
THINK, HULK! NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS--- THINK!!
MAYBE HULK CAN SAVE JIM-- IF HE CAN JUST FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO!
WATER!
YES! WATER IS THE ANSWER-- IT HAS TO BE!
COOL WATER ALWAYS MAKES HULK FEEL WELL AGAIN-- STRONG AGAIN!
MAYBE IT WILL DO THE SAME FOR JIM! IT HAS TO!
HUH? WHAT'S THAT? S--SHADOWS --IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAKE!
AND NOW-- NOISE FROM THE SKY-- LIKE A THOUSAND BUZZING HORNETS!
NO! IT CAN'T BE! NOT HERE-- NOT NOW--!
BUT IT IS! ONCE AGAIN---
-- THE HUMANS HAVE FOUND THE HULK!
2.

WELL, LET THEM COME! HULK IS NOT AFRAID OF THEM!
YET-- IF HULK STOPS NOW TO FIGHT THEM-- JIM MAY DIE!!
THEN DON'T FIGHT THEM, HULK! DON'T!
YOU--ROSS! THE ONE WHO ALWAYS HOUNDS HULK-- HAS SOLDIERS TRY TO CAGE HIM!
BUT THIS TIME-- YOU'RE ALONE! NO OTHERS TO PROTECT YOU!
THEN THIS IS THE TIME-- HULK WILL SMASH YOU FOREVER!
HE'S LUMBERING TOWARD ME-- HATRED IN HIS SOUL-- MURDER IN HIS EYES!
IF IT WAS A MISTAKE TO ORDER MY MEN TO LET ME GO IT ALONE---
--IT'S ONE I WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO REGRET!
MUST REACH THE BRUCE BANNER PART OF HIM-- THE SIDE THAT'S BURIED DEEP INSIDE HIM-- OR--
HULK-- LISTEN TO ME--!
ROSS
NO ONE WANTS TO HURT YOU! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
I ONLY WANT TO HELP YOU-- AND TO SAVE JIM--!
YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT! YOU MUST!!
THERE IS NOTHING HULK MUST DO--
-- EXCEPT CRUSH YOU-- NOW!
NO, HULK! STOP!
HE'S TELLIN' IT-- LIKE IT IS! YOU GOTTA TRUST 'IM--!
JIM! YOU'RE ALIVE!
THANK THE LORD!!
3.

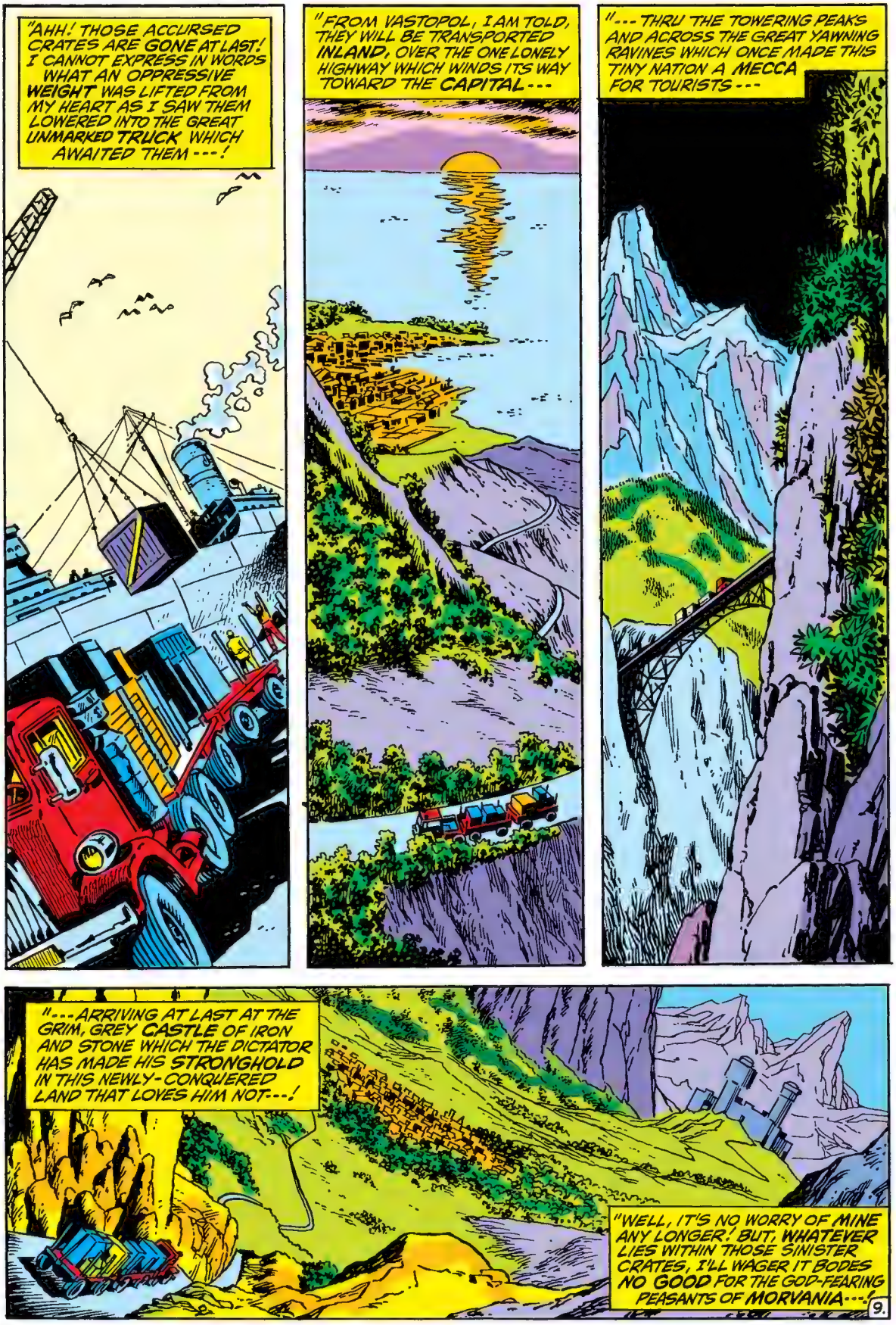
HULK IS PUZZLED! DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK!
THE BOY SAYS YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT US-- BUT ALL THOSE PLANES UP THERE--!
THE JET-COPTERS ARE JUST HERE AS CONVOY FOR ME-- AND TO ESCORT JIM BACK TO BASE HOSPITAL!
WON'T YOU LET ME HAVE A LITTER LOWERED FOR HIM-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?
YES--A LITTER! MAYBE YOU CAN DO-- WHAT HULK CAN'T!
WE WILL, HULK-- OR WE'LL BREAK OUR BACKS TRYING!
ROSS TO CONVOY ONE! ROSS TO CONVOY ONE!
LOWER STRETCHER ACCORDING TO PRE-ARRANGED PLAN-- BUT TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION!
AND, LESS THAN SIXTY SECONDS LATER---
THERE HE GOES! WE'LL DO ALL WE CAN FOR HIM, HULK!
NOW-- HIS FATE IS IN THE LAP OF THE GODS!
GOOD! THEN-- HULK DOESN'T NEED TO STAY HERE ANY LONGER!
HULK CAN GO-- BEFORE ENEMIES ATTACK HIM AGAIN!
WAIT, HULK! THERE'S NO SANE REASON WHY WE SHOULD BE ENEMIES!
IF YOU'LL JUST LISTEN TO ME FOR A MINUTE-- YOU'LL SEE WE ONLY WANT TO HELP YOU--!
UH OH! THIS I DON'T LIKE!
KEEP COOL, FELLA! YOU KNOW ROSS' ORDERS-- WE ONLY FIRE AS A LAST RESORT!
THAT GREEN GARGOYLE IS TURNIN' TOWARD THE OLD MAN-- WITH HIS FISTS CLENCHED!
ROGER! BUT IF THAT MONSTER TAKES ONE MEAN STEP-- I'M PUSHING THE FIRE-WORKS BUTTON!
ALL RIGHT, HUMAN-- TALK! HULK WILL LISTEN!
BUT IF THIS IS A TRICK-- THE HULK WILL SMASH!
4

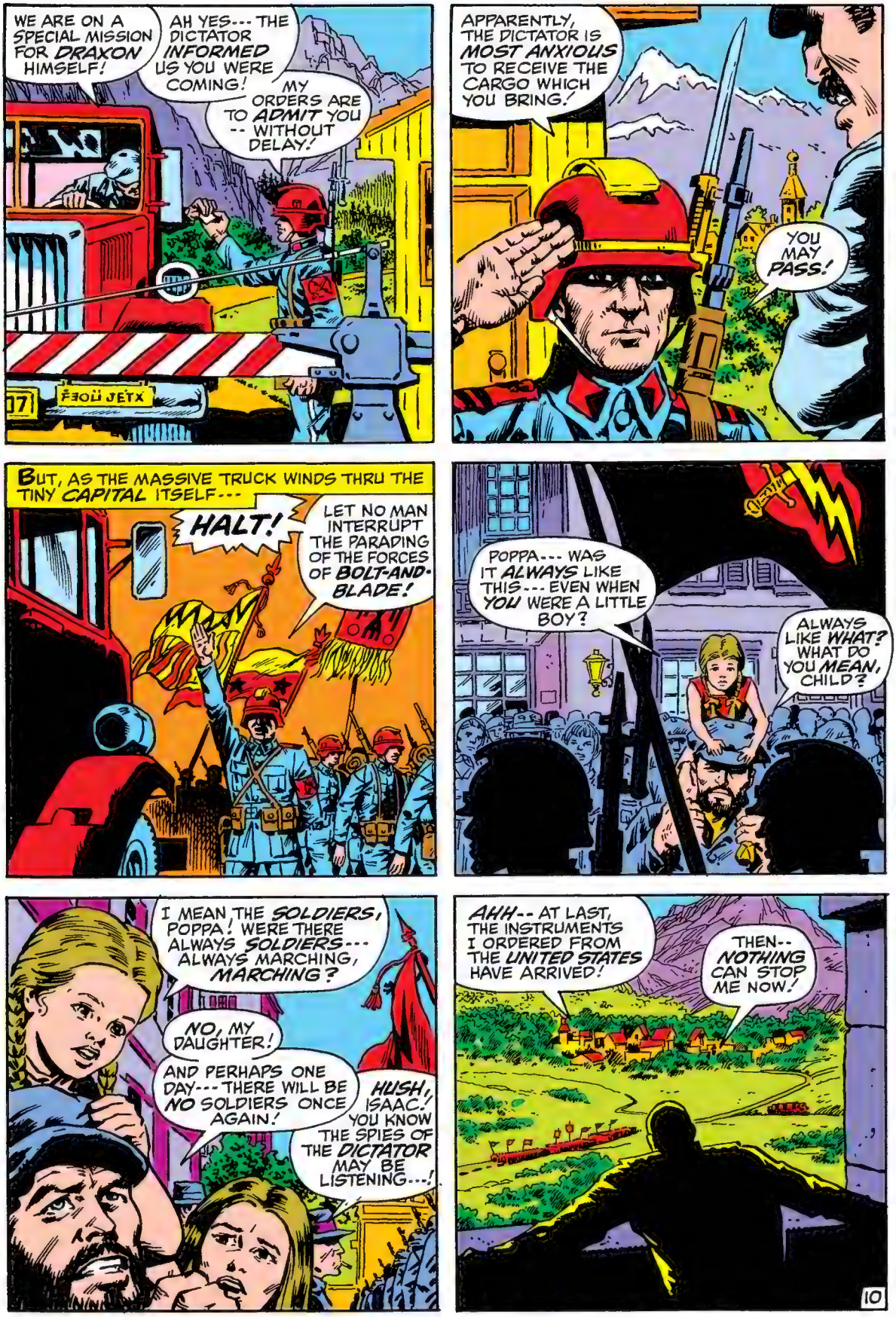
YOU WERE RIGHT, MAN! HE'S ADVANCING--AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S OUT FOR BLOOD!
WE'VE NO RECOURSE BUT TO---
FIRE!
GOOD LORD! NO! NO!
SO--IT WAS A TRICK--JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER TIMES!
BUT IT TAKES MORE THAN ONE PUNY ROCKET TO HURT THE HULK!
YOU FOOLS! YOU TRIGGER-HAPPY FOOLS! I WAS SO CLOSE--SO CLOSE--!
WORDS! WORDS! HULK IS SICK OF WORDS!
PLANE WITH JIM IS GONE--SO HULK CAN ATTACK OTHER PLANES NOW--AND HE WILL!
SKRUTCH!
NO USE TRYING TO REASON WITH HIM NOW! GOT TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT--WHILE I CAN!
NOR IS THERE ANY REASONING, PRECISELY TWO SECONDS LATER, WITH THE TWO-TON BOULDER WHICH COMES HURTLING SKYWARD--
WROOOM!
--TO FELL A MILLION-DOLLAR JET-COPTER AS IF IT WERE SOME FRAIL, WOUNDED SPARROW--!
5.

HAH! THAT WILL TEACH SOLDIERS TO FIRE AT HULK!
BUT-- WHERE'S ROSS? WHERE'S THE ONE WHO BETRAYED HULK? WHERE?
PULL AWAY, BOYS--AND I MEAN HARD!
NOTHING WE CAN DO HERE, WITH OUR LIMITED FIRE-POWER..
-- SO LET'S SCOOT BACK TO BASE, AND SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR THE BOY!
SOLDIERS FLEE FROM WRECK! WELL, LET THEM RUN! LET THEM BE AFRAID!
HULK DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THEM! HULK JUST WANTS TO FIND A PLACE --
THOOM!
THOOM!
-- WHERE HE CAN BE ALONE! ALONE!
WELL, WE DIDN'T CAPTURE THE HULK-- BUT AT LEAST JIM WILSON'S LIFE MAY BE SAVED!
STILL, IF ONLY THAT RECENT GAMMATRON BLAST HADN'T ALTERED THE MONSTER-- SO THAT HE DOESN'T TURN INTO BRUCE BANNER ANY MORE--!
WE'VE LOST OL' GREENSKIN ON THE RADAR, SIR-- BUT HE WAS HEADING FOR THE COAST!
THEN, THERE SHOULD BE NO TROUBLE PICKING UP HIS TRAIL AGAIN ONCE HE'S THERE--!
"AFTER ALL, WHAT'S HE GONNA DO-- HOP, SKIP, AND JUMP ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN--?"
6

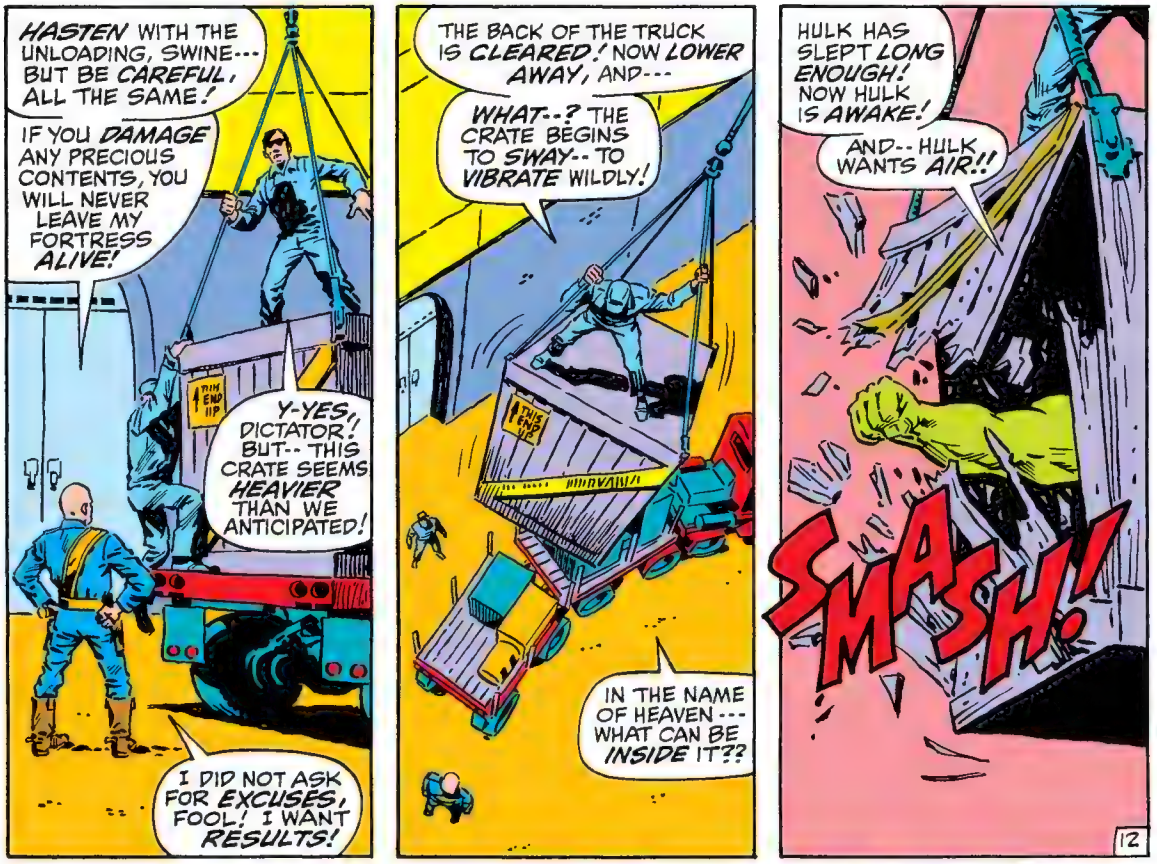
4
DESTINATION: MORVANIA
THIS END UP
DESTINATION: MORVANIA
THIS END UP
DESTINATION: MORVANIA
4
7.

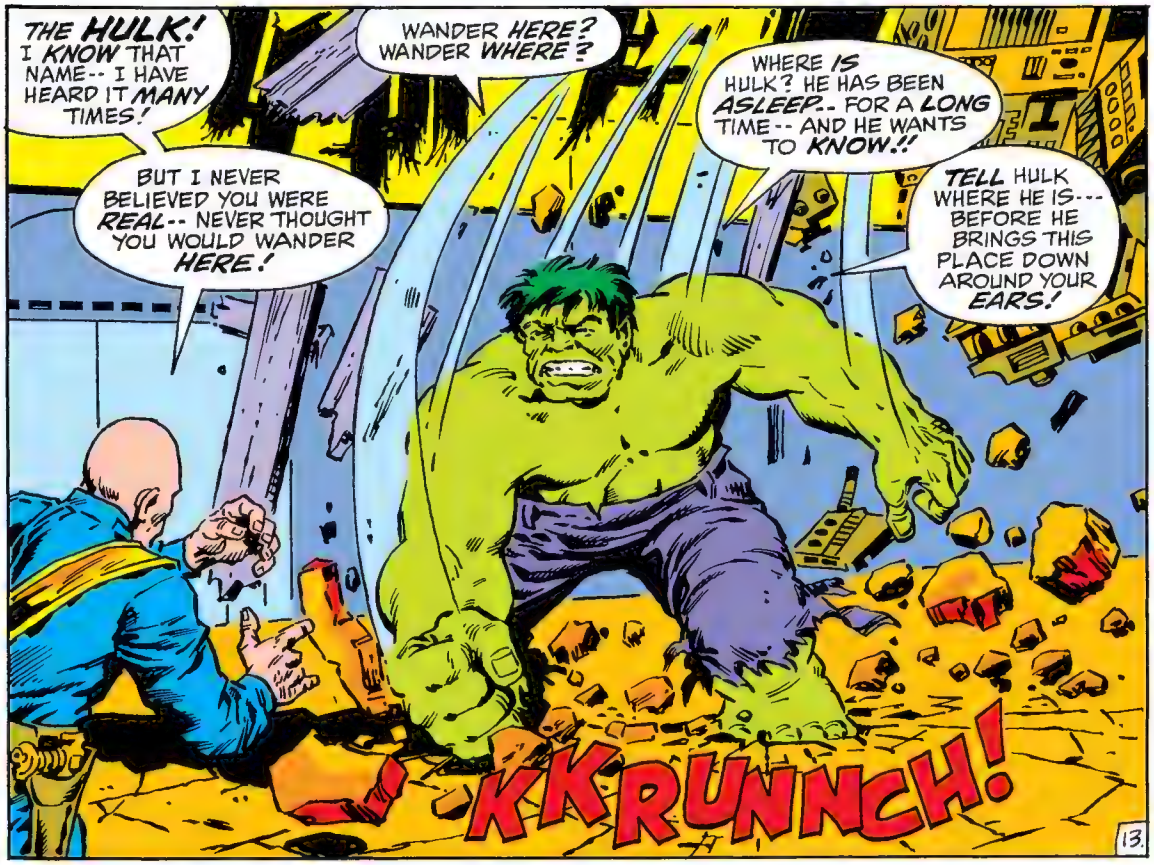
FROM THE LOG-BOOK OF THE S.S. CONRAD: "SAILING WEATHER GOOD TO PANAMA CANAL--- BUT A BIT CHOPPY IN MID-ATLANTIC! GENERALLY MILD ENOUGH SEAS, THOUGH, TO LULL A BABY TO SLEEP---!
"MYSTERIOUS SHIPMENT IN THE HOLD--- BOUND FOR MEDITERRANEAN PORT OF TINY NATION MORVANIA---!
DESTINATION: MORVANIA
"UNOFFICIAL WORD IS THAT IT'S TO BE DELIVERED EVENTUALLY TO THE DICTATOR HIMSELF...!
THIS END UP
ATION: MORVANIA
"NO WAY OF GUESSING WHAT'S INSIDE---!
"THREE WEEKS LATER: THE CITY OF VASTOPOL AT LAST--- ONLY SEAPORT OF MORVANIA---
"THANK THE LORD WE'LL FINALLY BE UNLOADING THOSE MYSTERY-SHROUDED CRATES---
"I'VE AN ODD FEELING ABOUT THEM--- ONE NOT EVEN SET AT EASE BY THE QUAINT BEAUTY OF VASTOPOL, OR THE FRIENDLINESS OF ITS BRIGHTLY-CLAD SUBJECTS---!
8


"AHH! THOSE ACCURSED CRATES ARE GONE AT LAST! I CANNOT EXPRESS IN WORDS WHAT AN OPPRESSIVE WEIGHT WAS LIFTED FROM MY HEART AS I SAW THEM LOWERED INTO THE GREAT UNMARKED TRUCK WHICH AWAITED THEM---!
"FROM VASTOPOL, I AM TOLD, THEY WILL BE TRANSPORTED INLAND, OVER THE ONE LONELY HIGHWAY WHICH WINDS ITS WAY TOWARD THE CAPITAL---
"---THRU THE TOWERING PEAKS AND ACROSS THE GREAT YAWNING RAVINES WHICH ONCE MADE THIS TINY NATION A MECCA FOR TOURISTS---
"---ARRIVING AT LAST AT THE GRIM, GREY CASTLE OF IRON AND STONE WHICH THE DICTATOR HAS MADE HIS STRONGHOLD IN THIS NEWLY-CONQUERED LAND THAT LOVES HIM NOT---!
"WELL, IT'S NO WORRY OF MINE ANY LONGER! BUT, WHATEVER LIES WITHIN THOSE SINISTER CRATES, I'LL WAGER IT BODES NO GOOD FOR THE GOD-FEARING PEASANTS OF MORVANIA---!
9.


WE ARE ON A SPECIAL MISSION FOR DRAXON HIMSELF!
AH YES--- THE DICTATOR INFORMED US YOU WERE COMING!
MY ORDERS ARE TO ADMIT YOU -- WITHOUT DELAY!
APPARENTLY, THE DICTATOR IS MOST ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE THE CARGO WHICH YOU BRING!
YOU MAY PASS!
BUT, AS THE MASSIVE TRUCK WINDS THRU THE TINY CAPITAL ITSELF---
HALT!
LET NO MAN INTERRUPT THE PARADING OF THE FORCES OF BOLT-AND-BLADE!
POPPA--- WAS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS--- EVEN WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE BOY?
ALWAYS LIKE WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CHILD?
I MEAN THE SOLDIERS, POPPA! WERE THERE ALWAYS SOLDIERS--- ALWAYS MARCHING, MARCHING?
NO, MY DAUGHTER!
AND PERHAPS ONE DAY--- THERE WILL BE NO SOLDIERS ONCE AGAIN!
HUSH, ISAAC! YOU KNOW THE SPIES OF THE DICTATOR MAY BE LISTENING---!
AHH-- AT LAST, THE INSTRUMENTS I ORDERED FROM THE UNITED STATES HAVE ARRIVED!
THEN-- NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!

ONCE I WAS A GRUBBY PEASANT--- BENDING MY BACK, LIKE THE OTHERS IN THIS HARD-SOILED LAND, TO EARN A CRUST OF BREAD---A FLAGON OF WINE!
BUT FATE MADE ME FIRST A SOLDIER IN A TINY ARMY--- THEN ITS GENERAL--- AND FINALLY, IN ONE FELL SWOOP, A NATION'S RULER!
BUT MORVANIA IS NOTHING--- A SPECK OF DUST ON A SPRAWLING MAP ---AND HER BORDERS CAN NEVER BE THE BORDERS OF MY OWN AMBITION!
WITH THE CONTENTS OF THOSE CRATES, I CAN MAKE MYSELF MASTER OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ---THEN OF EUROPE ---THEN OF ALL THE WORLD!
WHERE HITLER FAILED--- WHERE NAPOLEON STUMBLED AND FELL---THERE SHALL DRAXON SUCCEED!!

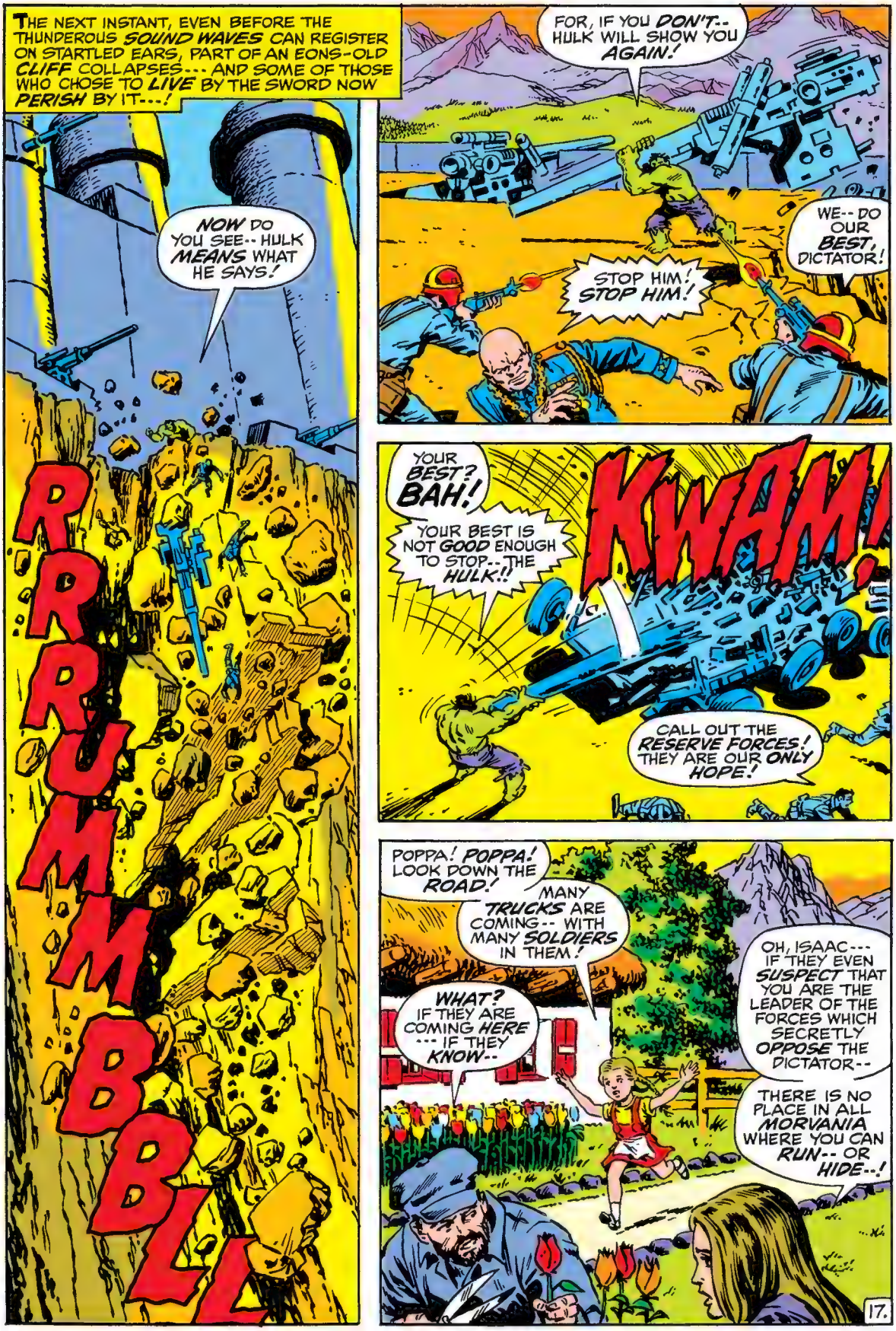

HASTEN WITH THE UNLOADING, SWINE--- BUT BE CAREFUL, ALL THE SAME!
IF YOU DAMAGE ANY PRECIOUS CONTENTS, YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE MY FORTRESS ALIVE!
Y-YES, DICTATOR! BUT-- THIS CRATE SEEMS HEAVIER THAN WE ANTICIPATED!
I DID NOT ASK FOR EXCUSES, FOOL! I WANT RESULTS!
THE BACK OF THE TRUCK IS CLEARED! NOW LOWER AWAY, AND---
WHAT--? THE CRATE BEGINS TO SWAY-- TO VIBRATE WILDLY!
IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN --- WHAT CAN BE INSIDE IT??
HULK HAS SLEPT LONG ENOUGH! NOW HULK IS AWAKE!
AND-- HULK WANTS AIR!!
SMASH!
12

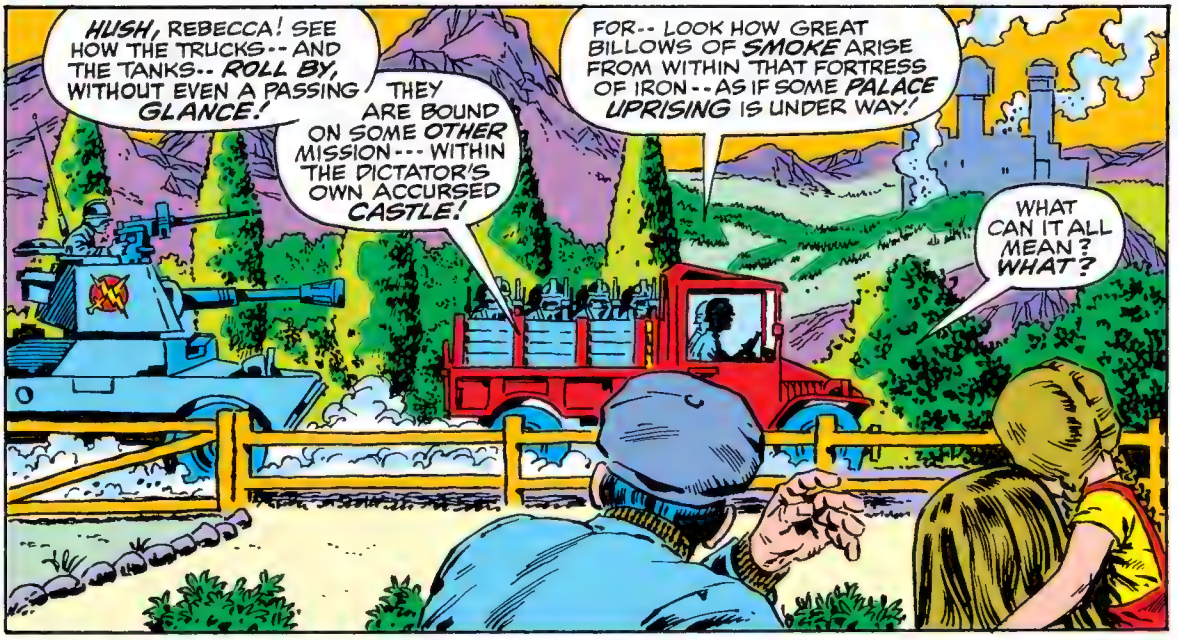

THE HULK! I KNOW THAT NAME-- I HAVE HEARD IT MANY TIMES!
BUT I NEVER BELIEVED YOU WERE REAL-- NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD WANDER HERE!
WANDER HERE? WANDER WHERE?
WHERE IS HULK? HE HAS BEEN ASLEEP-- FOR A LONG TIME-- AND HE WANTS TO KNOW!!
TELL HULK WHERE HE IS--- BEFORE HE BRINGS THIS PLACE DOWN AROUND YOUR EARS!
KKRUNNCH!
13

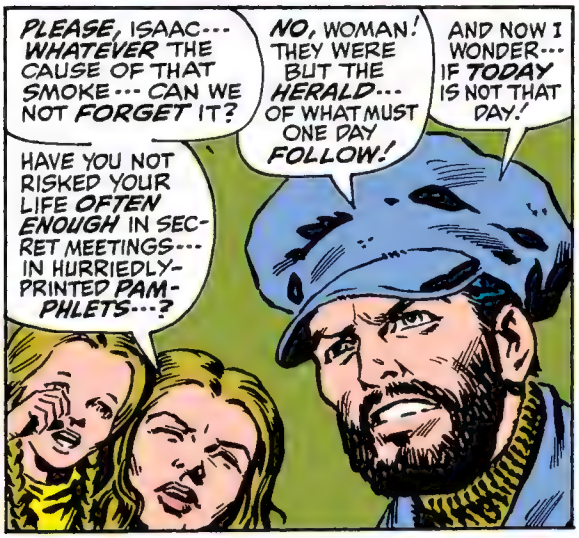
THEN-- YOU TRULY DO NOT KNOW?
AND I AM DRAXON-- SUPREME DICTATOR OF THE LAND!
YOU ARE IN MORVANIA, HULK-- THOUGH EVEN I DO NOT KNOW HOW YOU CAME TO BE HERE!
LOOK ABOUT YOU, HULK-- AT THE RUGGED COUNTRY YOU SEE BEFORE YOUR BRUTISH EYES!
WITH AN IRON FIST I TOOK THIS LAND -- AND WITH AN IRON FIST I HOLD IT!
I TRUST NOTHING -- AND NO ONE-- BUT MY OWN INVINCIBLE WILL TO POWER!
YOU HAVE NO AMBITION -- AND THUS COULD BE TRUSTED NOT TO BETRAY ME!
BUT I HAVE READ OF YOU--- AND I KNOW YOU ARE DIFFERENT FROM MERE MEN!
AND, IF YOUR STRENGTH IS WHAT THEY CLAIM-- WE COULD CHANGE THE MAP OF EUROPE TOGETHER, YOU AND I!
WELL? WHAT SAY YOU?
MAP? WHAT HAS HULK TO DO WITH MAPS?
WHEN HULK LEAPS INTO SKY, THERE ARE NO LINES LIKE ON MAP-- NO COUNTRIES-- NO KINGDOMS!
ALL HULK KNOWS IS-- WHEREVER HE GOES-- MEN HATE HIM-- TRY TO HURT HIM!
WILL CHANGING MAPS MAKE MEN LEAVE HULK ALONE?
NOW, STAND ASIDE, OR-- WHAT??
YOU RESPONDED WELL TO MY SIGNAL, MY MINIONS!
FOR, HE WHO IS NOT WITH ME-- IS AGAINST ME!
KRAKKKAKRAK

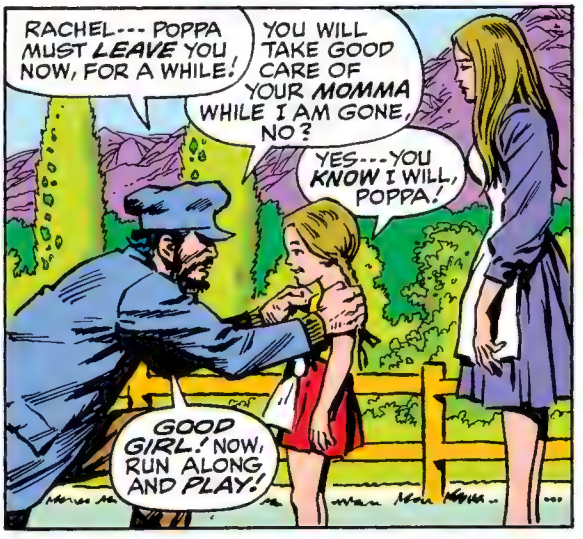
AND THOSE WHO OPPOSE ME-- MUST DIE!!
THA-WOOM!
HE IS DOWN-- BUT THE GREEN-SKINNED SWINE STILL LIVES!
LET THE BAZOOKA BOMBARDMENT BEGIN!
QUICKLY--- BEFORE HE CAN RISE-- TO WREAK A TERRIBLE REVENGE!
YES-- REVENGE! HULK WILL--
=YAAARRHHH!=
KEEP FIRING! THE MONSTER STAGGERS BACK-- HE FALLS!
AND THERE IS NOTHING BEYOND THE CASTLE'S EASTERN PARAPET--- BUT A THOUSAND-FOOT DROP!
PT-TOOM! PHTOOM!
HE IS GONE!
THE HULK IS DEAD!
CAN THERE BE GREATER PROOF THAT DRAXON IS DESTINED TO CONQUER ANY WHO MIGHT STAND IN HIS WAY?
15

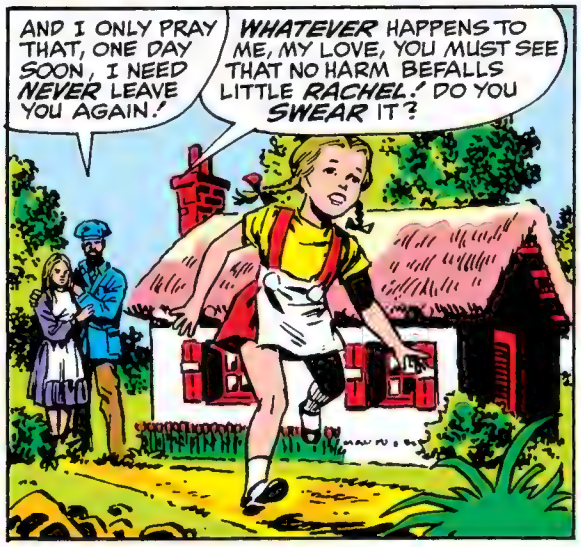
FOR, DOES NOT DRAXON WEAR ABOUT HIS NECK THE IMPERIAL AMULET?
IS NOT HIS THE POWER THAT RAISED THE BANNER OF THE BLADE-AND-BOLT OVER ALL THE LAND?
YOU INFERNAL DOGS! WHAT DO YOU STARE AT, OVER MY SHOULDER?
WHAT CAN THERE BE BEHIND ME EXCEPT---
THE HULK!
HULK HAS HEARD YOUR SPEECH!
NOW IT IS HULK'S TURN TO HAVE HIS SAY-- THE HULK'S WAY!
NO-- NO! STAY BACK! I COMMAND Y--
=AARRHH!=
DON'T YOU HEAR? DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?
NO ONE COMMANDS THE HULK!
NO ONE!
16

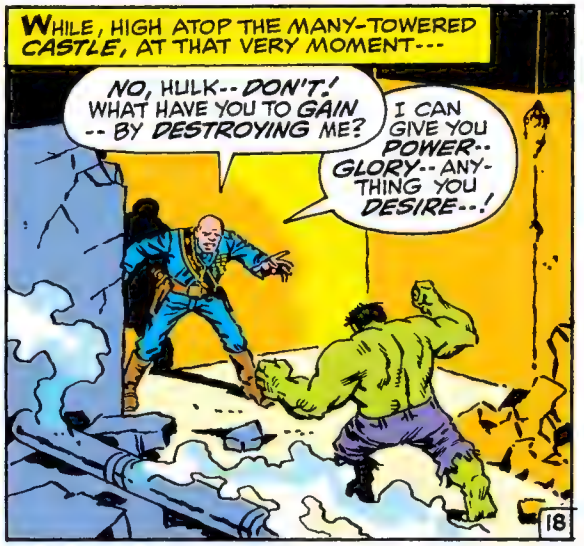

THE NEXT INSTANT, EVEN BEFORE THE THUNDEROUS SOUND WAVES CAN REGISTER ON STARTLED EARS, PART OF AN EONS-OLD CLIFF COLLAPSES--- AND SOME OF THOSE WHO CHOSE TO LIVE BY THE SWORD NOW PERISH BY IT---!
NOW DO YOU SEE-- HULK MEANS WHAT HE SAYS!
RRUMMBBLL
FOR, IF YOU DON'T-- HULK WILL SHOW YOU AGAIN!
WE-- DO OUR BEST, DICTATOR!
STOP HIM! STOP HIM!
YOUR BEST? BAH!
YOUR BEST IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO STOP-- THE HULK!!
KWAM!
CALL OUT THE RESERVE FORCES! THEY ARE OUR ONLY HOPE!
POPPA! POPPA! LOOK DOWN THE ROAD!
MANY TRUCKS ARE COMING-- WITH MANY SOLDIERS IN THEM!
WHAT? IF THEY ARE COMING HERE --- IF THEY KNOW--
OH, ISAAC--- IF THEY EVEN SUSPECT THAT YOU ARE THE LEADER OF THE FORCES WHICH SECRETLY OPPOSE THE DICTATOR--
THERE IS NO PLACE IN ALL MORVANIA WHERE YOU CAN RUN-- OR HIDE--!
17.


HUSH, REBECCA! SEE HOW THE TRUCKS-- AND THE TANKS-- ROLL BY, WITHOUT EVEN A PASSING GLANCE!
THEY ARE BOUND ON SOME OTHER MISSION--- WITHIN THE DICTATOR'S OWN ACCURSED CASTLE!
FOR-- LOOK HOW GREAT BILLOWS OF SMOKE ARISE FROM WITHIN THAT FORTRESS OF IRON--AS IF SOME PALACE UPRISING IS UNDER WAY!
WHAT CAN IT ALL MEAN? WHAT?

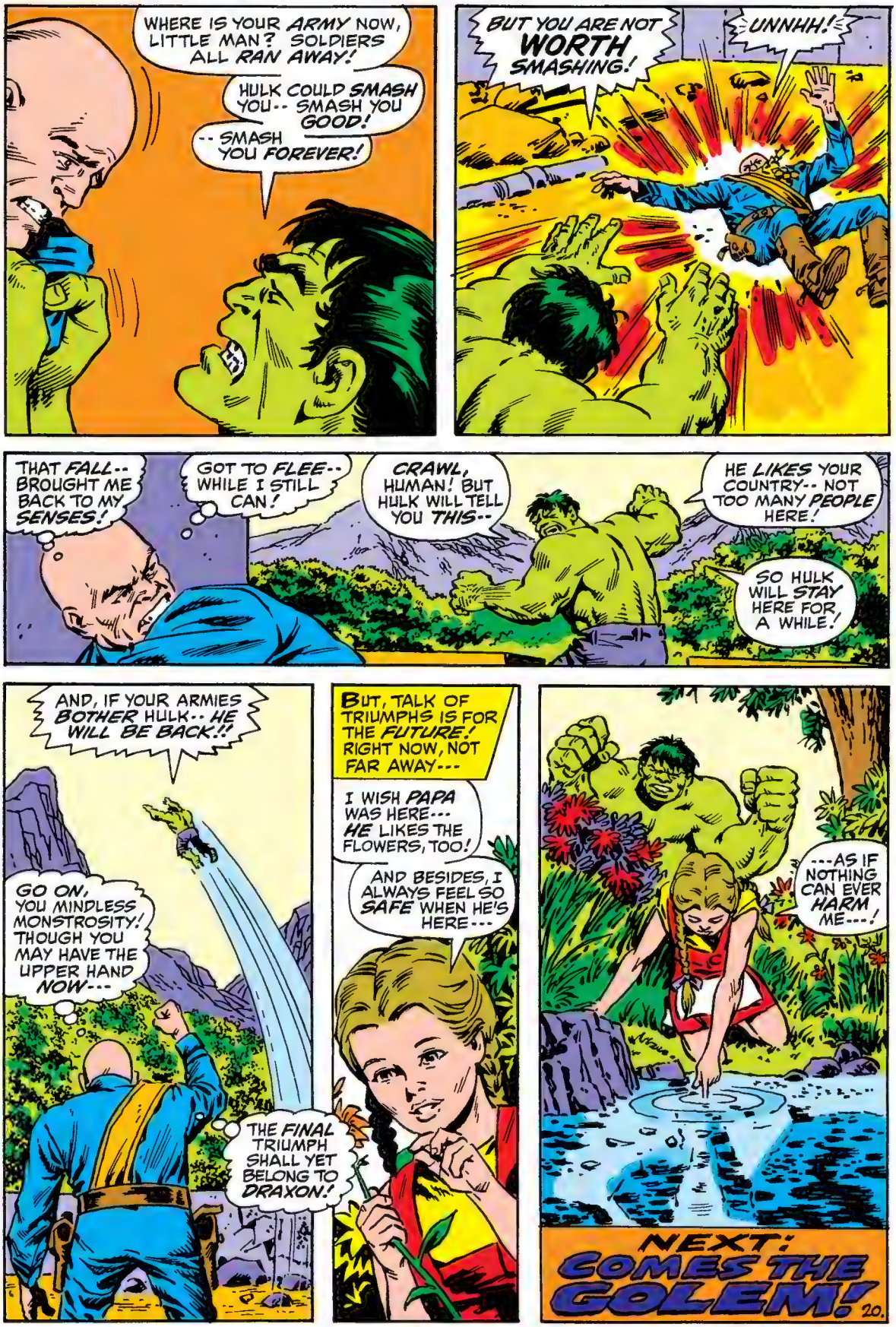

PLEASE, ISAAC--- WHATEVER THE CAUSE OF THAT SMOKE--- CAN WE NOT FORGET IT?
NO, WOMAN! THEY WERE BUT THE HERALD--- OF WHAT MUST ONE DAY FOLLOW!
AND NOW I WONDER--- IF TODAY IS NOT THAT DAY!
HAVE YOU NOT RISKED YOUR LIFE OFTEN ENOUGH IN SECRET MEETINGS--- IN HURRIEDLY-PRINTED PAMPHLETS---?

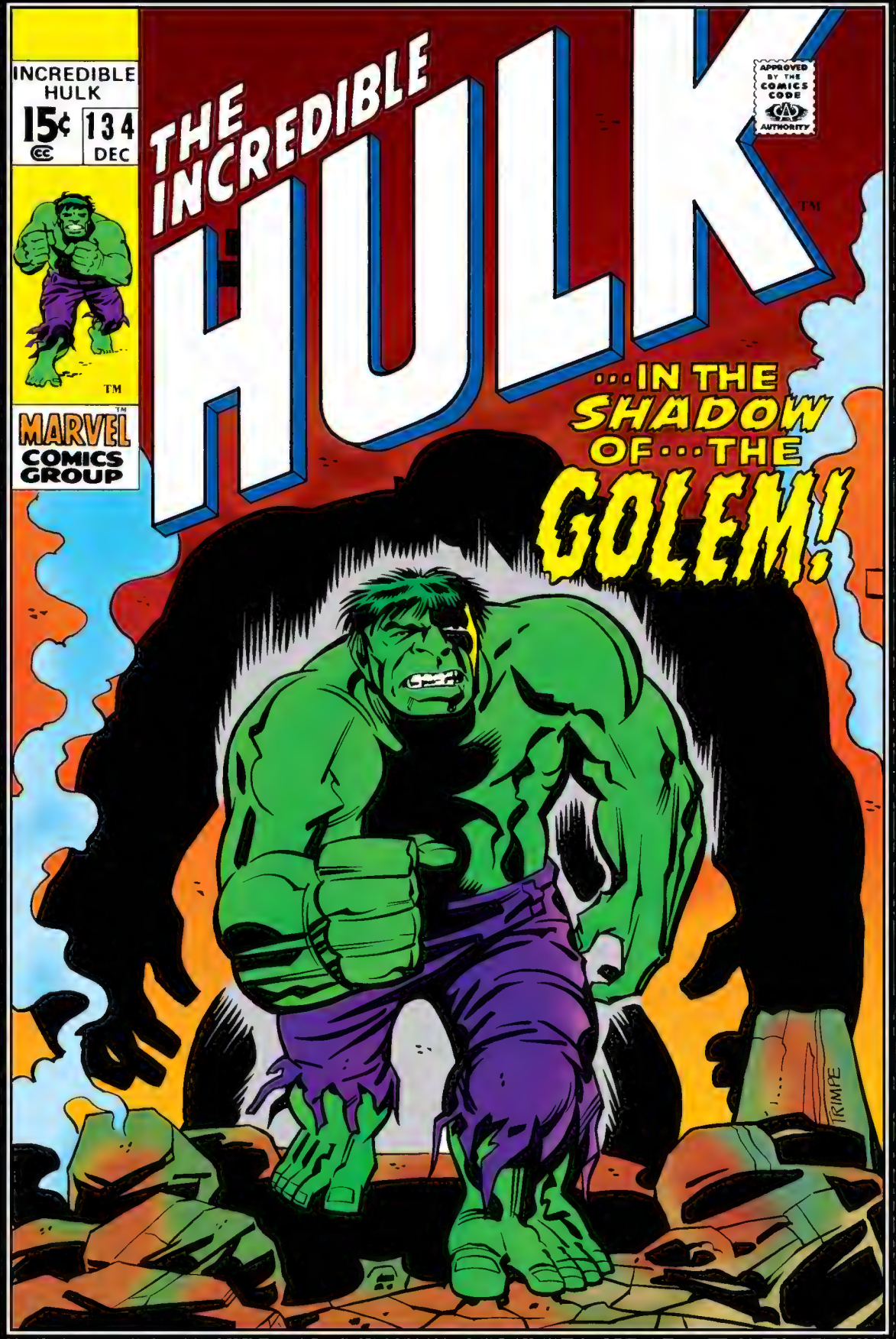

RACHEL--- POPPA MUST LEAVE YOU NOW, FOR A WHILE!
YOU WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR MOMMA WHILE I AM GONE, NO?
YES---YOU KNOW I WILL, POPPA!
GOOD GIRL! NOW, RUN ALONG AND PLAY!


AND I ONLY PRAY THAT, ONE DAY SOON, I NEED NEVER LEAVE YOU AGAIN!
WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ME, MY LOVE, YOU MUST SEE THAT NO HARM BEFALLS LITTLE RACHEL! DO YOU SWEAR IT?


WHILE, HIGH ATOP THE MANY-TOWERED CASTLE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT---
NO, HULK-- DON'T! WHAT HAVE YOU TO GAIN -- BY DESTROYING ME?
I CAN GIVE YOU POWER-- GLORY-- ANYTHING YOU DESIRE--!

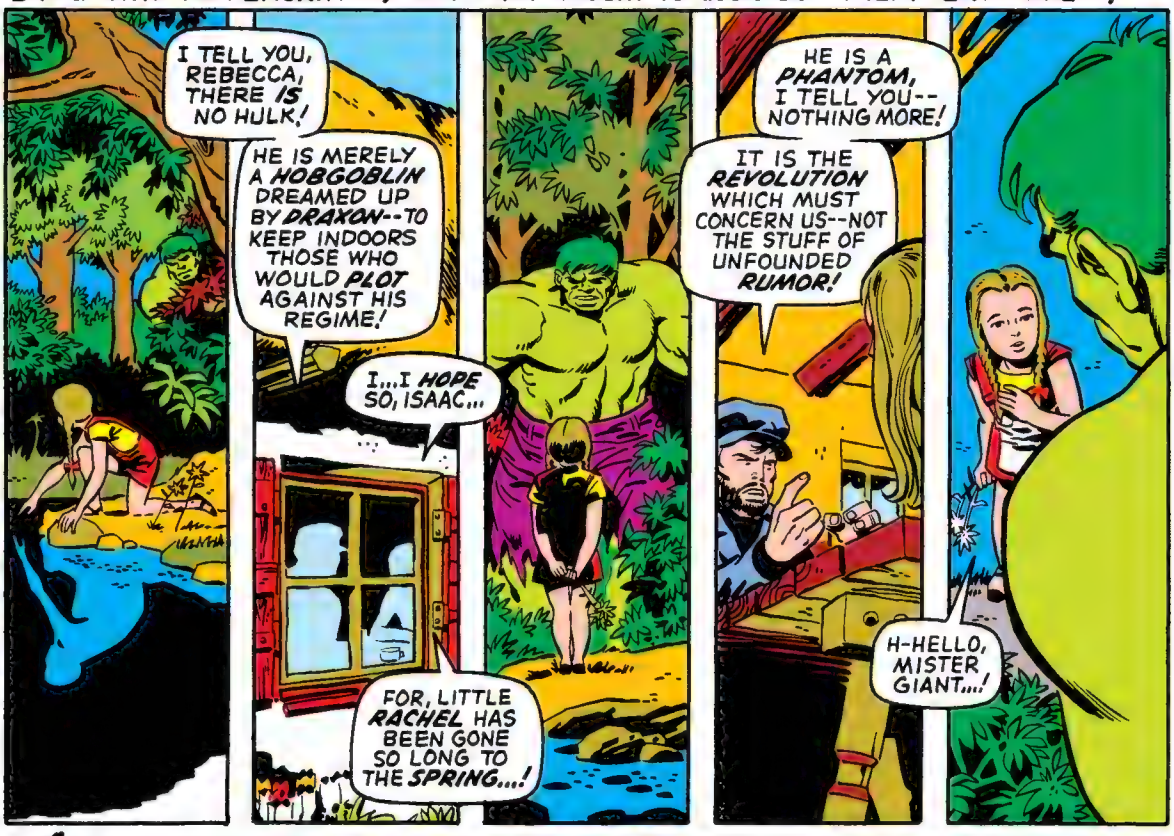
YOU'RE LIKE OTHER HUMANS! YOU JUST TALK --- NEVER LISTEN!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE HULK--- BECAUSE HULK WANTS NOTHING BUT TO BE LEFT ALONE!
AND YOU WILL LEAVE HULK ALONE---VERY SOON!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRY REASONING WITH A BRAIN-LESS BRUTE!
WELL, AT THIS CLOSE RANGE, THESE SPECIALLY-DESIGNED PISTOLS SHOULD---
NO! THEY'RE AS USELESS-- AS INEFFECTUAL AS EVERYTHING ELSE!
KTHOW!
KTHOW!
KTHOW!
NOW ARE YOU THRU PLAYING GAMES WITH HULK?
FOR, HULK IS THRU PLAYING GAMES--- FOR GOOD!
THAK!
THEN, AN UNFORESEEN THING OCCURS--- AS DAXON, THE DICTATOR WHO HOLDS THIS TINY COUNTRY WITH AN IRON FIST, FREEZES IN TOTAL, UNCOMPREHENDING FEAR---
SO--YOU DON'T MOVE---
---DON'T EVEN TRY TO RUN FROM HULK!


WHERE IS YOUR ARMY NOW, LITTLE MAN? SOLDIERS ALL RAN AWAY!
HULK COULD SMASH YOU-- SMASH YOU GOOD!
-- SMASH YOU FOREVER!
BUT YOU ARE NOT WORTH SMASHING!
UNNHH!
THAT FALL-- BROUGHT ME BACK TO MY SENSES!
GOT TO FLEE-- WHILE I STILL CAN!
CRAWL, HUMAN! BUT HULK WILL TELL YOU THIS--
HE LIKES YOUR COUNTRY-- NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE!
SO HULK WILL STAY HERE FOR A WHILE!
AND, IF YOUR ARMIES BOTHER HULK-- HE WILL BE BACK!!
GO ON, YOU MINDLESS MONSTROSITY! THOUGH YOU MAY HAVE THE UPPER HAND NOW---
THE FINAL TRIUMPH SHALL YET BELONG TO DRAXON!
BUT, TALK OF TRIUMPHS IS FOR THE FUTURE! RIGHT NOW, NOT FAR AWAY---
I WISH PAPA WAS HERE--- HE LIKES THE FLOWERS, TOO!
AND BESIDES, I ALWAYS FEEL SO SAFE WHEN HE'S HERE---
---AS IF NOTHING CAN EVER HARM ME---!
NEXT: COMES THE GOLEM!


INCREDIBLE HULK
15¢
134
DEC
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
...IN THE SHADOW OF...THE GOLEM!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
TRIMPE

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!™

A SPECTRE IS HAUNTING **MORVANIA**--THE SPECTRE MEN CALL THE **HULK!** ALL THE POWER OF THE IRON-WILLED DICTATOR **DRAXON** HAS BEEN MUSTERED TO FERRET OUT THE MONSTER WHO SKULKS THE HILLSIDES--AIRCRAFT AND INFORMER, ARMED PATROL AND POLICE SPIES! BUT STILL, LET THE TYRANT **TREMBLE**--FOR WHAT IF THE HULK SHOULD UNITE WITH THE **PEASANTRY,** WHO HAVE NAUGHT TO LOSE BUT THEIR **SERVITUDE**--?


I TELL YOU, REBECCA, THERE **IS** NO HULK!
HE IS MERELY A **HOBGOBLIN** DREAMED UP BY **DRAXON**--TO KEEP INDOORS THOSE WHO WOULD **PLOT** AGAINST HIS REGIME!
I...I **HOPE** SO, ISAAC...
FOR, LITTLE **RACHEL** HAS BEEN GONE SO LONG TO THE **SPRING**...!
HE IS A **PHANTOM,** I TELL YOU--NOTHING MORE!
IT IS THE **REVOLUTION** WHICH MUST CONCERN US--NOT THE STUFF OF UNFOUNDED **RUMOR!**
H-HELLO, MISTER GIANT...!

ANOTHER MIND-BOGGLING ADDENDUM TO THE MIGHTY MARVEL MYTHOS BY:

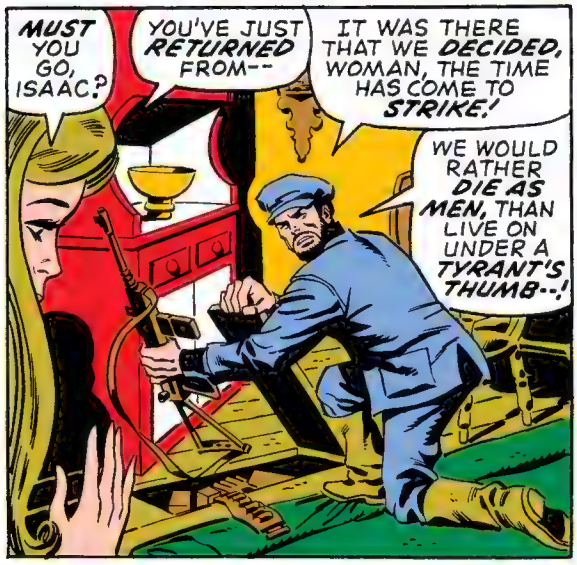
STAN LEE	ROY THOMAS	HERB TRIMPE	SAL BUSCEMA	ARTIE SIMEK
EDITOR	*WRITER*	*ARTIST*	*EMBELLISHER*	*LETTERER*

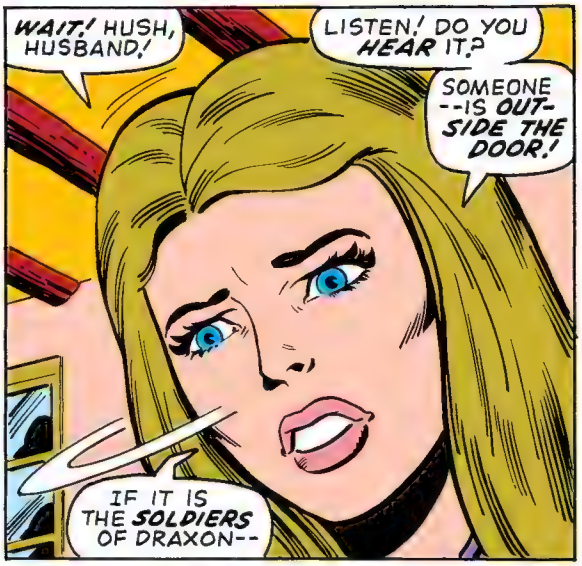
AMONG US WALKS... THE GOLEM

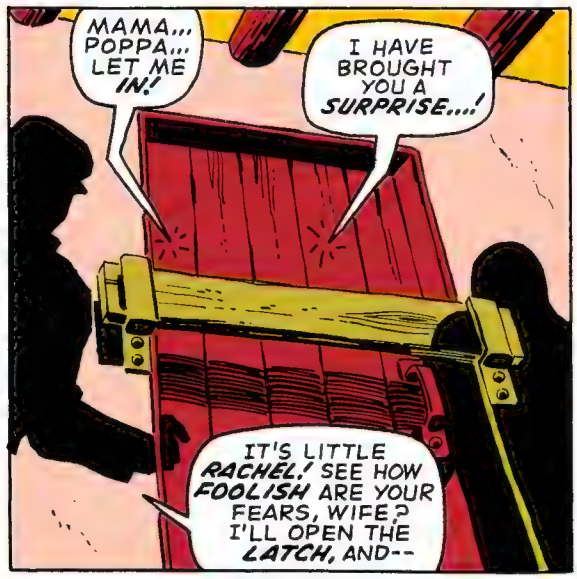
4/20

YOU WON'T SAY ANYTHING...BUT I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!
MY POPPA TOLD ME YOU WOULD COME ONE DAY!
LET'S GO TO MY HOUSE!

IT WILL MAKE POPPA GLAD TO SEE YOU!


MUST YOU GO, ISAAC?
YOU'VE JUST RETURNED FROM--
IT WAS THERE THAT WE DECIDED, WOMAN, THE TIME HAS COME TO STRIKE!
WE WOULD RATHER DIE AS MEN, THAN LIVE ON UNDER A TYRANT'S THUMB--!

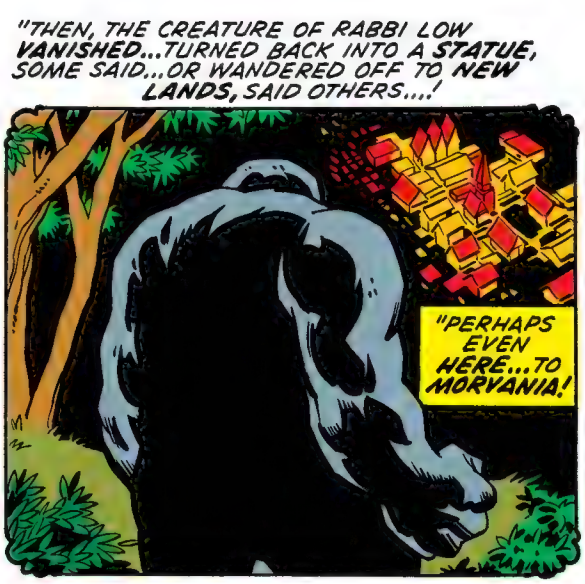

WAIT! HUSH, HUSBAND!
LISTEN! DO YOU HEAR IT?
SOMEONE --IS OUTSIDE THE DOOR!
IF IT IS THE SOLDIERS OF DRAXON--


MAMA... POPPA... LET ME IN!
I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A SURPRISE...!
IT'S LITTLE RACHEL! SEE HOW FOOLISH ARE YOUR FEARS, WIFE? I'LL OPEN THE LATCH, AND--

GOOD LORD! NO! NO!
2

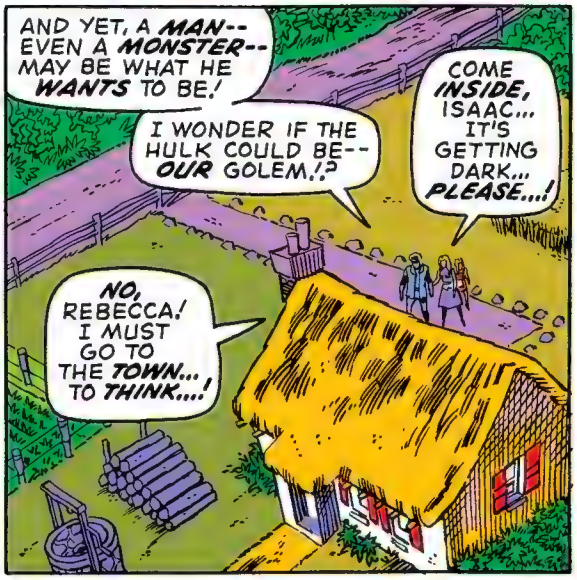
IT'S THE MONSTER CALLED THE HULK! DRAXON SPOKE THE TRUTH!
FLEE--OUT THRU THE BACK--WHILE I SEEK TO HOLD HIM AT BAY!
NO, POPPA--DON'T! HE WON'T HARM YOU--!
SEE? HE WON'T EVEN FIGHT YOU--HE'D RATHER RUN AWAY!
BUT WHY DID YOU CALL HIM THE HULK, POPPA? THAT'S NOT HIS NAME!
HE'S THE ONE YOU TOLD ME ABOUT! --THE GOLEM!
THE--GOLEM--?
BUT--THE GOLEM IS ONLY A STORY TOLD TO CHILDREN--WHEN THE NIGHT IS COLD AND THE FIRE BURNS LOW!
HE DOES NOT EXIST! HE CANNOT EXIST!
WHAT STORY DO YOU SPEAK OF, HUSBAND? I DO NOT KNOW IT--!
THE OLD WAYS ARE DYING, MY LOVE--OR ELSE YOU, TOO, WOULD KNOW!
THE GOLEM IS AN OLD, OLD LEGEND I TOLD TO RACHEL--
--AND A DREAM I NEVER DARED BELIEVE--TILL NOW--!
"THE LEGEND WAS BORN CENTURIES AGO--IN THE CITY OF PRAGUE--AS THE GRIM SERPENT PERSECUTION REARED ITS HEAD IN THE LAND, AND OUR PEOPLE HID IN CELLARS, IN ATTICS--
"--AND THE RABBI JUDAH LOW BEN BEZALEL BREATHED LIFE INTO A BODY WITHOUT A SOUL--!
3.

"YEA, COMMON CLAY STOOD UPRIGHT--A THING OF MUD AND WATTLE FOUGHT WITH DEMON-LIKE FRENZY--
"--UNTIL OUR PEOPLE WERE SAFE--FREED OF FALSE CHARGES LEVIED AGAINST THEM--AND UNTIL OUR ENEMIES WERE NO MORE!


"THEN, THE CREATURE OF RABBI LOW VANISHED...TURNED BACK INTO A STATUE, SOME SAID...OR WANDERED OFF TO NEW LANDS, SAID OTHERS....!
"PERHAPS EVEN HERE...TO MORVANIA!

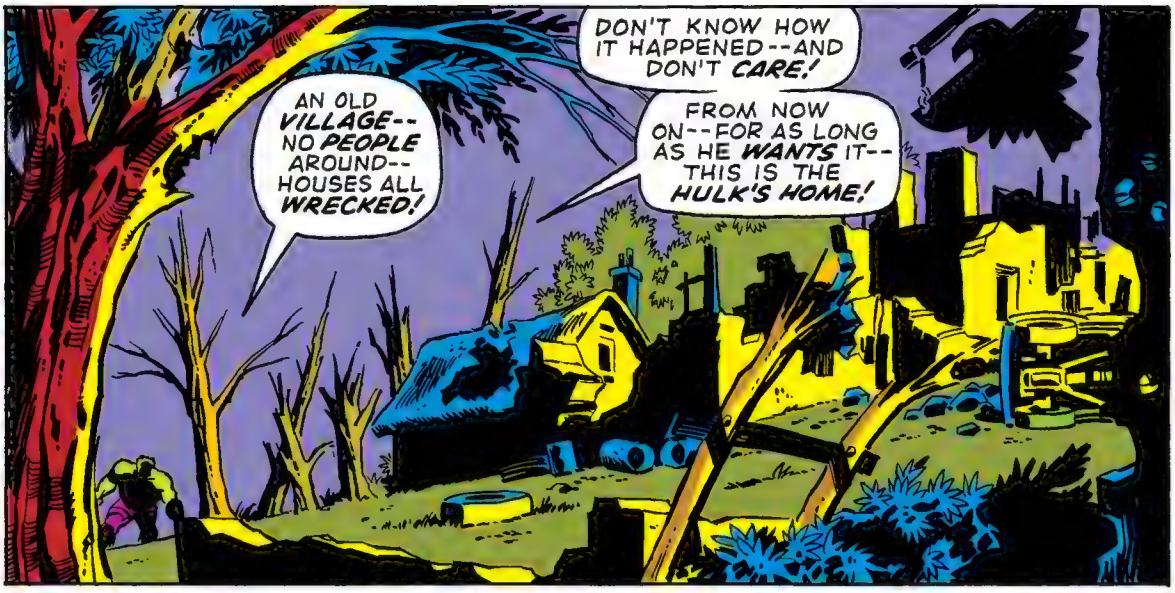
"PERHAPS THERE IS TRUTH IN THE MYTH THAT SAYS THE GOLEM FASHIONED THE IMPERIAL AMULET OF OUR COUNTRY--WORN BY OUR ROYAL FAMILY FOR CENTURIES--

--AND NOW USURPED BY THE POWER-MAD DICTATOR DRAXON!
NO, LITTLE RACHEL! EVEN AS I TOLD THE TALE, I KNEW THE MONSTER YOU MET BY THE SPRING COULD NOT BE THE GOLEM OF LEGEND!
FOR, THE GOLEM WAS A LEGEND--AND NOTHING MORE!

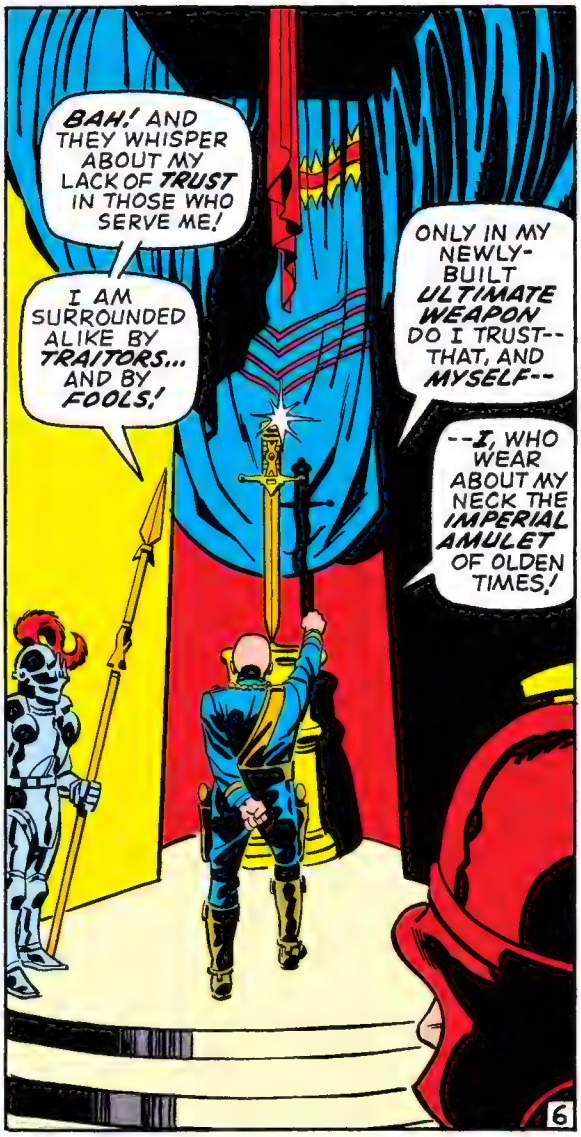

AND YET, A MAN--EVEN A MONSTER--MAY BE WHAT HE WANTS TO BE!
I WONDER IF THE HULK COULD BE--OUR GOLEM!?
COME INSIDE, ISAAC... IT'S GETTING DARK... PLEASE...!
NO, REBECCA! I MUST GO TO THE TOWN... TO THINK....!

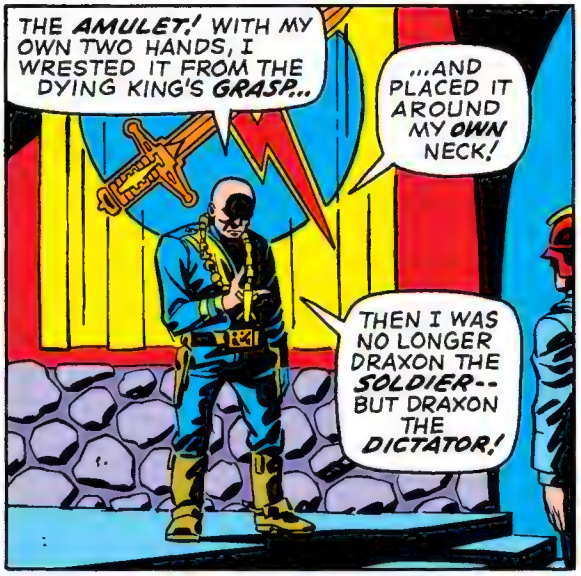
MADE A MISTAKE! SHOULDN'T HAVE LET ANY HUMANS SEE HULK!
4

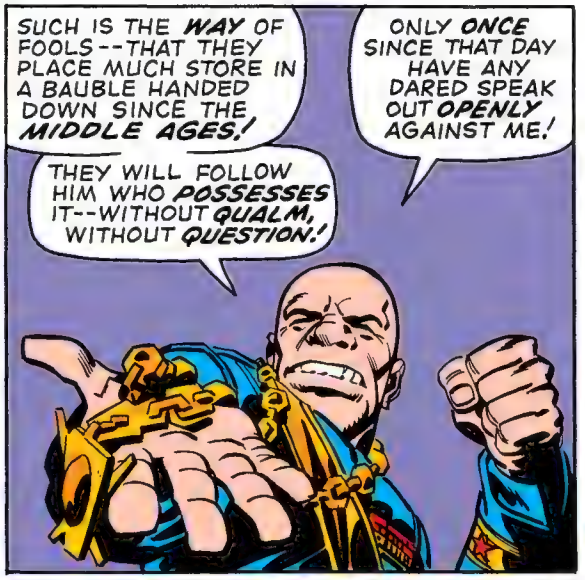
LITTLE GIRL WOULDN'T TRY TO HURT HULK!
BUT-- THE OTHERS--!
BAH! WHY SHOULD HULK CARE WHAT PUNY HUMANS DO?
WHAT CAN THEY DO TO HULK HERE --IN THIS LITTLE PLACE?
WHAT CAN THEY DO TO HULK ANY-WHERE?
HULK IS STRONG! HULK IS THE STRONGEST THERE IS!
IT'S THE HULK-- JUST AS THE DICTATOR WARNED US!
FLEE-- AND SOUND THE ALARM!!
NOW HULK HAS DONE IT!
THEY'LL BRING OTHER HUMANS --MAYBE SOLDIERS-- TO BOTHER HULK!
BETTER GET OUT OF TOWN-- BEFORE THEY COME--!
WHILE, IN THE VERY TAVERN BY WHICH THE GREEN-SKINNED GOLIATH IS STRIDING--
WHAT NOISE IS THAT OUTSIDE?
NEVER MIND THAT!
I TELL YOU, IT IS THE ONLY WAY! WE MUST SEEK OUT THE HULK!
HE SOUNDS WORSE THAN EVEN DRAXON HIMSELF! AND YET-- PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT!
I WONDER --WHERE IS THE HULK NOW?
MAYBE HULK SHOULD JUMP INTO SKY-- LEAVE THIS PLACE BEHIND!
BUT--NO! HULK LIKES THIS QUIET LAND WHERE THE BOAT BROUGHT HIM!
ONLY THE MAN DRAXON SENT SOLDIERS AGAINST ME--AND HULK MADE THEM ALL RUN AWAY AGAIN!
DRAXON LEARNED LESSON! HE WON'T SEND MEN AGAINST HULK AGAIN, OR ELSE--
WHAT'S THAT-- UP AHEAD--?

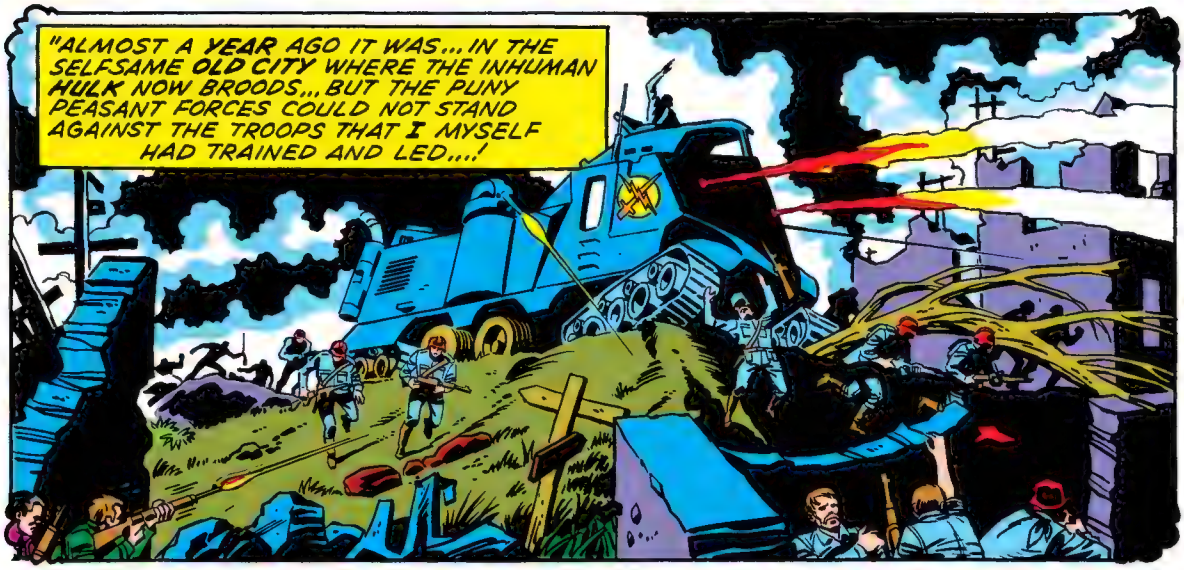

AN OLD VILLAGE-- NO PEOPLE AROUND-- HOUSES ALL WRECKED!
DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED--AND DON'T CARE!
FROM NOW ON--FOR AS LONG AS HE WANTS IT-- THIS IS THE HULK'S HOME!

BUT, A BRUTISH MAN-BEAST LIKE THE HULK--IN WHOM THE PERSONALITY OF BRUCE BANNER HAS BEEN PERHAPS FOREVER SUBMERGED--CAN HARDLY EXPECT HIS MOVEMENTS TO GO LONG UNCHRONICLED IN THIS TINY MEDITERRANEAN NATION....!
WHAT IS THAT YOU SAY, MAN?
THE MONSTER HAS MADE HIS HOME IN THE OLD CITY?
YES, EXCELLENCY! NOR WILL ANY OF MY MEN WILLINGLY GO NEAR IT!
THEY BELIEVE THE RUMORS THAT SAY HE IS THE MIGHTY GOLEM OF JEWISH LEGEND!

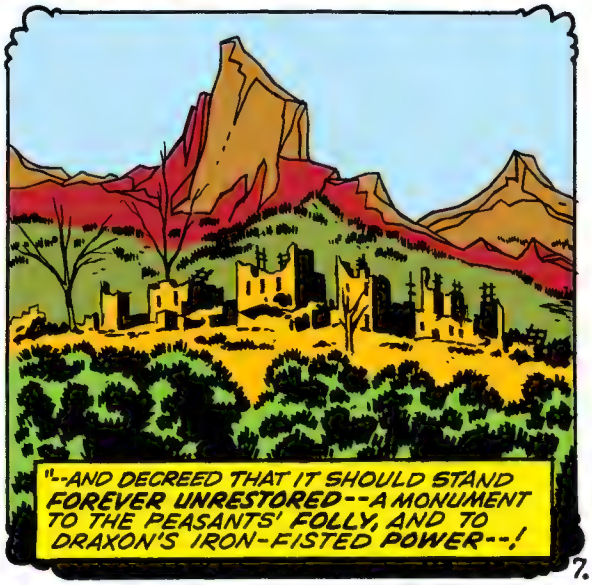

BAH! AND THEY WHISPER ABOUT MY LACK OF TRUST IN THOSE WHO SERVE ME!
I AM SURROUNDED ALIKE BY TRAITORS... AND BY FOOLS!
ONLY IN MY NEWLY-BUILT ULTIMATE WEAPON DO I TRUST--THAT, AND MYSELF--
--I, WHO WEAR ABOUT MY NECK THE IMPERIAL AMULET OF OLDEN TIMES!


THE AMULET! WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS, I WRESTED IT FROM THE DYING KING'S GRASP...
...AND PLACED IT AROUND MY OWN NECK!
THEN I WAS NO LONGER DRAXON THE SOLDIER-- BUT DRAXON THE DICTATOR!

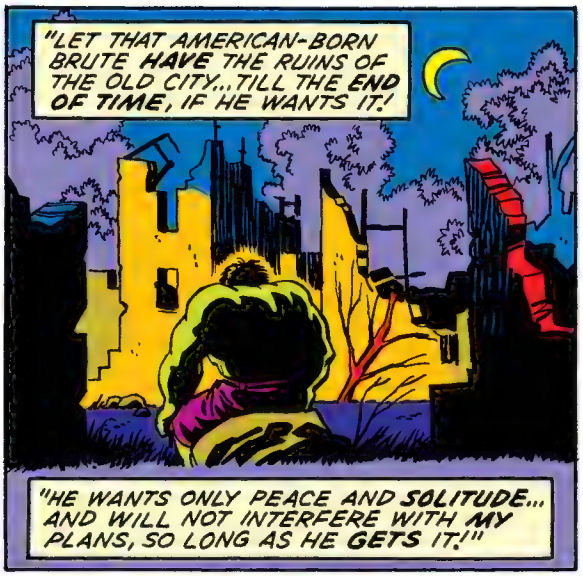

SUCH IS THE WAY OF FOOLS--THAT THEY PLACE MUCH STORE IN A BAUBLE HANDED DOWN SINCE THE MIDDLE AGES!
ONLY ONCE SINCE THAT DAY HAVE ANY DARED SPEAK OUT OPENLY AGAINST ME!
THEY WILL FOLLOW HIM WHO POSSESSES IT--WITHOUT QUALM, WITHOUT QUESTION!


"ALMOST A YEAR AGO IT WAS... IN THE SELFSAME OLD CITY WHERE THE INHUMAN HULK NOW BROODS... BUT THE PUNY PEASANT FORCES COULD NOT STAND AGAINST THE TROOPS THAT I MYSELF HAD TRAINED AND LED...!

"NO ONE WHO HAS BUILT AN EMPIRE UPON CRUELTY CAN AFFORD TO BE MERCIFUL--AND SO I RAZED THE OLD CITY--GUTTED IT WITH ALL-DESTROYING FIRE--


"--AND DECREED THAT IT SHOULD STAND FOREVER UNRESTORED--A MONUMENT TO THE PEASANTS' FOLLY, AND TO DRAXON'S IRON-FISTED POWER--!

BUT, WHY HAVE I RAMBLED ON THUS TO THE LIKES OF YOU?
IT IS A WEAKNESS--AND DRAXON CAN ALLOW NO WEAKNESS!
GO--AND DO NOT RETURN UNTIL YOU LEARN THE NAME OF THE LEADER OF THE NEW UNDERGROUND!


"LET THAT AMERICAN-BORN BRUTE HAVE THE RUINS OF THE OLD CITY...TILL THE END OF TIME, IF HE WANTS IT!
"HE WANTS ONLY PEACE AND SOLITUDE... AND WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS, SO LONG AS HE GETS IT!"

HURRY! IF THE HULK TRULY SKULKS AMONG THE OLD CITY'S RUINS, AS THEY SAY--
WE MUST FIND HIM--REASON WITH HIM--PERSUADE HIM TO BE OUR PROTECTOR--OUR GOLEM!
IT IS ONLY YOUR PEOPLE WHO EVER BELIEVED THE LEGEND OF THE GOLEM, ISAAC--AND THERE ARE FEW OF YOU AMONG US!
FOR MY PART, THIS HULK IS A MONSTER TO BE FEARED--AND LEFT ALONE!
YES--IF HE TRULY EXISTS! I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM!
IF HE DOES NOT, THEN PERHAPS WE NEED A NEW LEADER! PERHAPS--

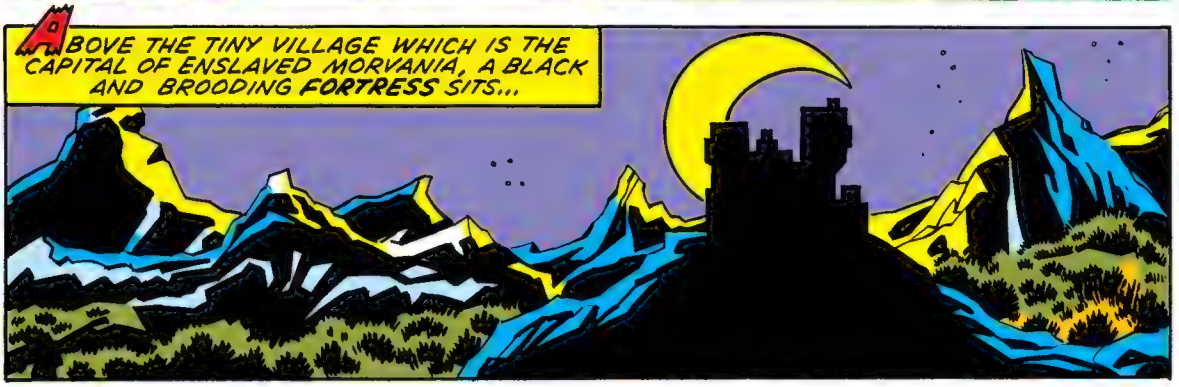
LOOK! THERE HE IS!

THERE'S THE ONE I TOLD YOU ABOUT! THE HULK!
THEN--IT'S TRUE! THE HULK LIVES!!

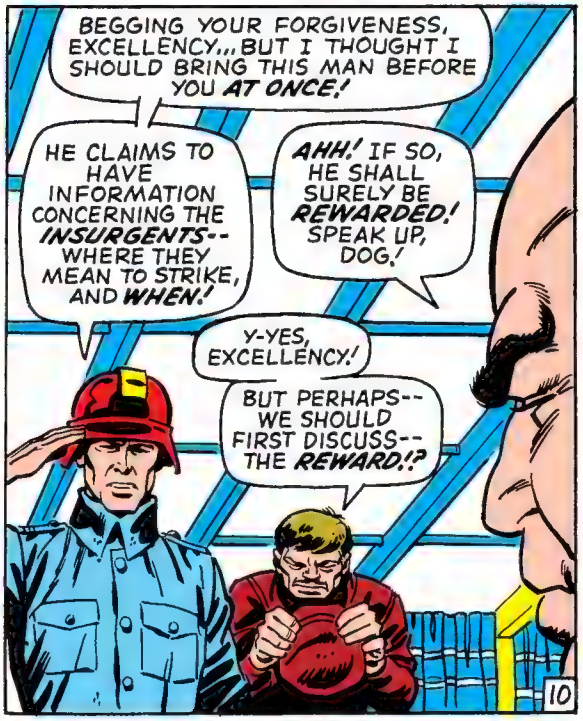
HOW HORRIBLE HE LOOKS! HE'S MORE TO BE FEARED THAN DRAXON HIMSELF!
DRAXON? DO YOU COME FROM DRAXON?
HE WAS WARNED TO LET HULK ALONE, OR ELSE--
NO, HULK! WE WERE NOT SENT BY THE DICTATOR!
LOOK AT ME! DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE ME?
YES! YES! YOU ARE THE FATHER OF THE GIRL!
WELL, SAY WHAT YOU WANT! BUT DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
WE ARE PEACE-LOVING PEASANTS, HULK--NOT USED TO FIGHTING--STRANGE TO THE WAYS OF VIOLENCE!
THAT IS WHY WE HAVE COME TO YOU!
ONLY WITH YOUR AID MAY WE HOPE TO DEFEAT THE ARMIES OF DRAXON!
WHAT? YOU DARE COME TO HULK--AND ASK FOR HELP?
WE CAN TURN TO NO ONE ELSE, GIANT ONE!
WON'T YOU LEAD US TO VICTORY--SO THAT OUR LAND MAY BE FREE ONCE MORE?
NO! HULK CAN SEE FEAR ON ALL THESE FACES--ALL BUT YOURS!
WHY SHOULD HULK FIGHT FOR HUMANS WHO FEAR HIM--WHO HATE HIM?
WHY SHOULD HULK FIGHT FOR ANY HUMANS?
AS LONG AS DRAXON LEAVES HULK ALONE--HULK WILL NOT FIGHT!

HE IS GONE--AND I FOR ONE AM GLAD! BUT NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
THAT WHICH WE SHOULD HAVE DONE BEFORE, MY FRIENDS!
IF THERE IS NO GOLEM--IF THERE IS NO HOPE OF DELIVERANCE FROM OUTSIDE--

--THEN WE MUST BECOME OUR OWN DELIVERERS--THIS VERY NIGHT!


ABOVE THE TINY VILLAGE WHICH IS THE CAPITAL OF ENSLAVED MORVANIA, A BLACK AND BROODING FORTRESS SITS...

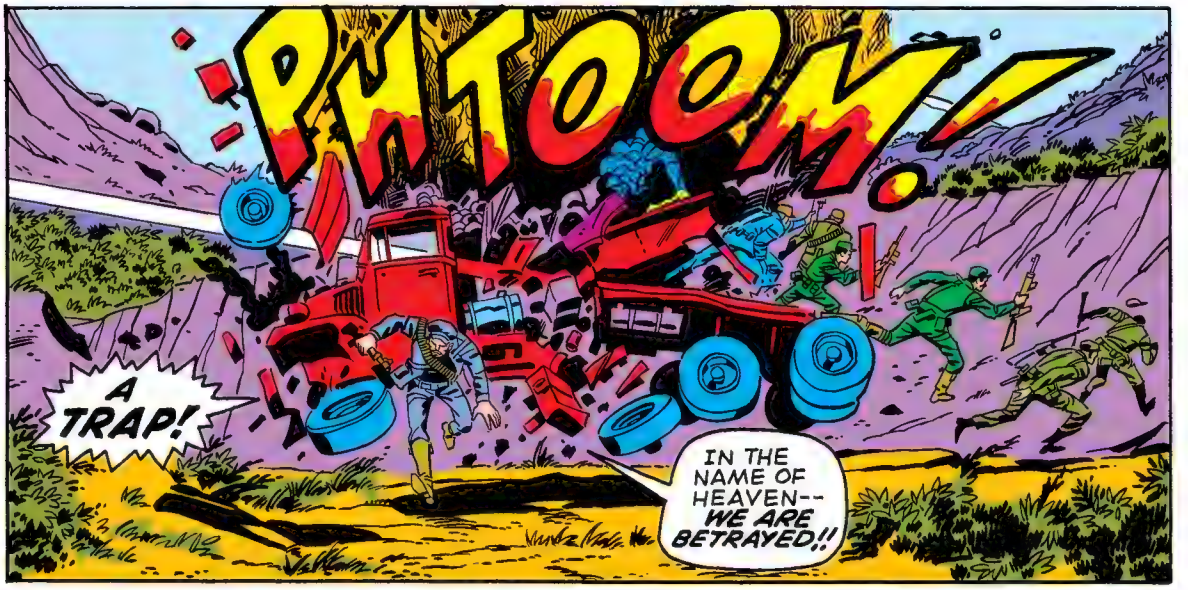
...BUT NO MORE DARK, NO MORE DESOLATE THAN THE MIND AND SOUL OF THE MAN WHO SKULKS WITHIN....!
I CAN TRUST NO ONE... AND NOTHING!
NO ONE SAVE MYSELF... AND NOTHING BUT THE AWESOME WEAPON WHICH EVEN NOW NEARS COMPLETION! AND THEN--
WELL? WHAT DO YOU WANT? ANSWER ME, OR--

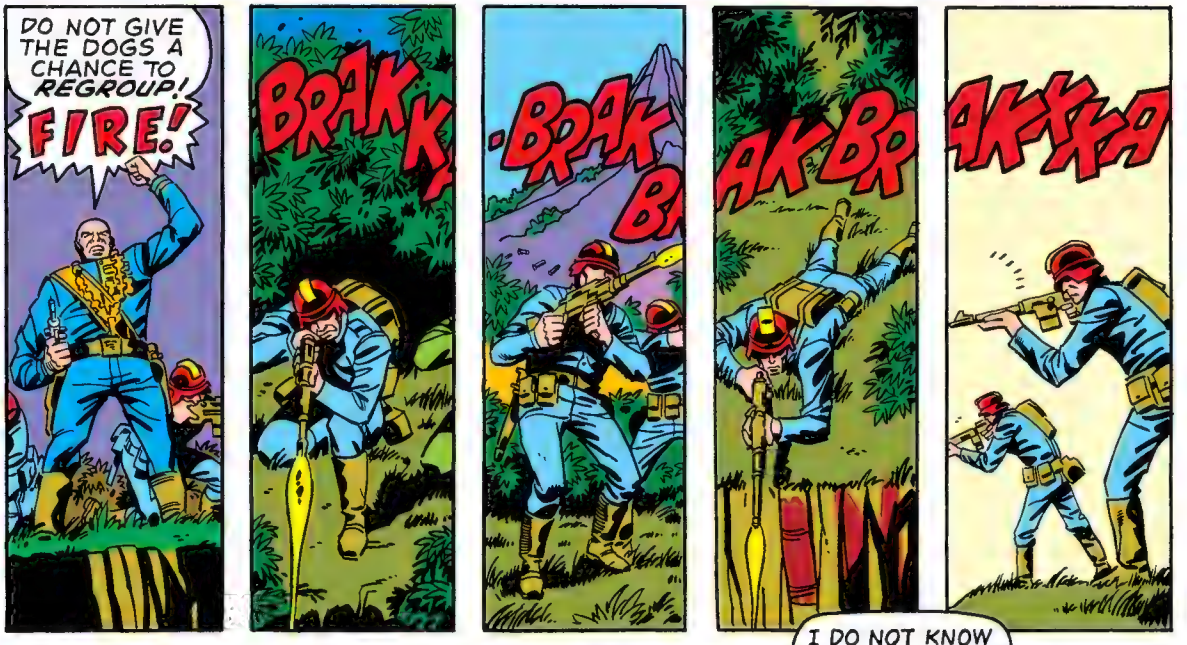

BEGGING YOUR FORGIVENESS, EXCELLENCY... BUT I THOUGHT I SHOULD BRING THIS MAN BEFORE YOU AT ONCE!
HE CLAIMS TO HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE INSURGENTS--WHERE THEY MEAN TO STRIKE, AND WHEN!
AHH! IF SO, HE SHALL SURELY BE REWARDED! SPEAK UP, DOG!
Y-YES, EXCELLENCY!
BUT PERHAPS--WE SHOULD FIRST DISCUSS--THE REWARD!?

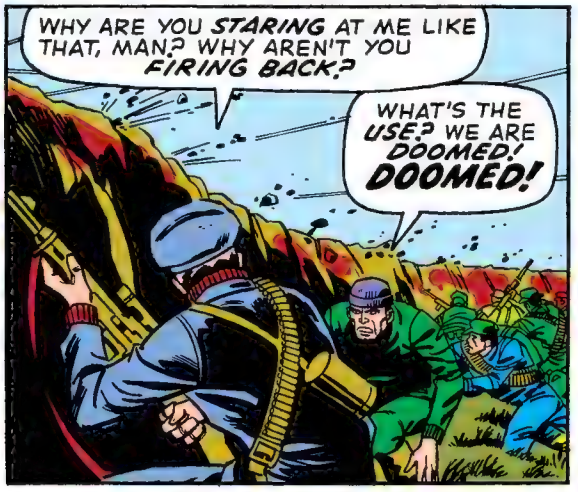
WHAT.? WOULD YOU PLAY GAMES WITH YOUR DICTATOR, YOU DIRT-HUGGING SWINE.?
PLEASE, EXCELLENCY! I--I TRUST YOUR GENEROSITY!
TELL ME WHAT YOU CAME TO SAY--AND PRAY TO ALL THE GODS YOU KNOW THAT YOUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT!
I HAVE LONG PRETENDED TO BE ONE OF THE INSURGENTS--WHILE WAITING ONLY FOR THE MOMENT WHEN I COULD BETRAY THEM--AND SERVE MY DICTATOR!
THEY PLAN TO ATTACK THE FORTRESS FROM THE VILLAGE BELOW--TONIGHT!
TONIGHT.? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO AT ONCE, YOU BLITHERING DULLARD.?
GUARD! SOUND THE ALERT! THE TIME IS AT HAND, AT LAST!
GOOD, EXCELLENCY! AND NOW--MY REWARD--?
REWARD.? FEEL YOUR PULSE, DOG! DOES IT NOT STILL BEAT.?
I HAVE LEFT YOU YOUR LIFE--AND FOR THAT YOU SHOULD KISS MY BOOTS IN GRATITUDE--
"--FOR, THAT IS FAR MORE THAN I SHALL LEAVE A SINGLE ONE OF THE INSURGENTS--OR THEIR FAMILIES!"

WHILE, IN THE SLEEPING VILLAGE BELOW...UNAWARE THAT THEY MOVE TOWARD A RENDEZVOUS WITH TRAGEDY...
SOFT, NOW! THERE IS YET ANOTHER SENTRY ON THE EDGE OF TOWN!
LET ME FINISH THIS ONE! I OWE HIM SOME-THING!
THERE! YOU'LL NEVER SHOOT DOWN ANOTHER MAN'S FAMILY--AS YOU DID MINE!
AND BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS THRU, DRAXON MUST SUFFER THE SAME FATE--
--OR NONE OF US WILL LIVE TO SEE THE MORNING SUN!
12

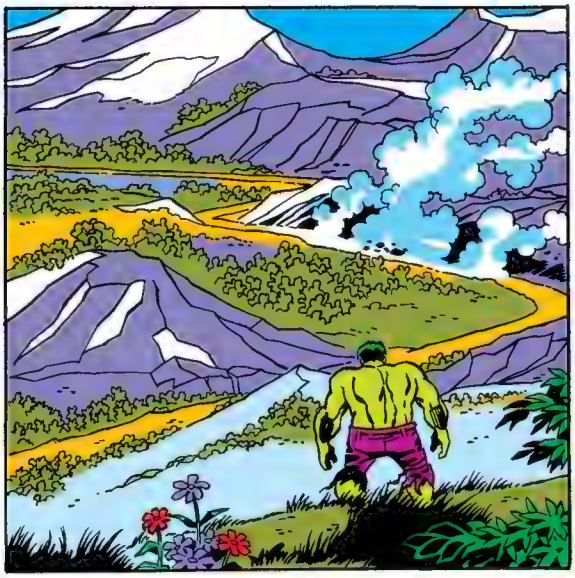
LOOK! THERE IS THE TRUCK WHICH THE SENTRY DROVE DOWN!
RIDING IN IT, WE CAN COME EVEN CLOSER TO THE FORTRESS, BEFORE THE ALARM IS SOUNDED!
AND THEN WHAT, ISAAC?
THEN WE MUST BATTLE OUR WAY TO DRAXON--AND KILL HIM--
--OR WE'LL ALL PERISH IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM--AND MORVANIA!
WHAT GOOD IS IT TO PERISH IN THE NAME OF A COUNTRY? PERHAPS WE SHOULD ALL TURN BACK, BEFORE YOU LEAD US INTO--
HOLD! LISTEN!
I HEARD SOMETHING--UP THERE, AMIDST THE TREES!
CAN IT BE--?
13


PHTOOM!
A TRAP!
IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN-- WE ARE BETRAYED!!

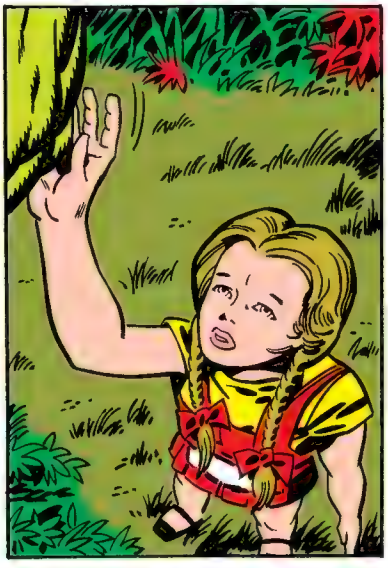

DO NOT GIVE THE DOGS A CHANCE TO REGROUP!
FIRE!
BRAK K
BRAK B
AK BR
AK-K-K-A

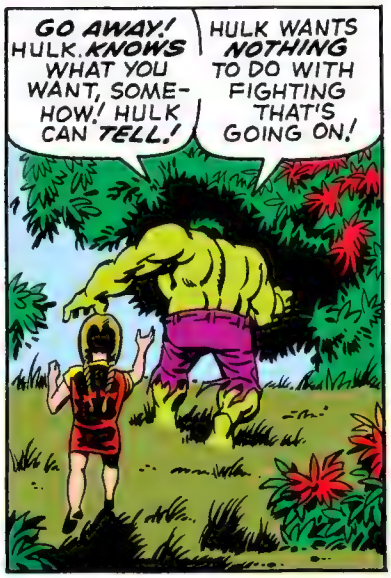

WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT, MAN? WHY AREN'T YOU FIRING BACK?
WHAT'S THE USE? WE ARE DOOMED! DOOMED!

FOOL! DID YOU EXPECT AN EASY VICTORY?
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT I EXPECTED --BUT IT WAS NOT THIS! NOT THIS!!
WE MUST SURRENDER, ISAAC! SURRENDER-- OR DIE!



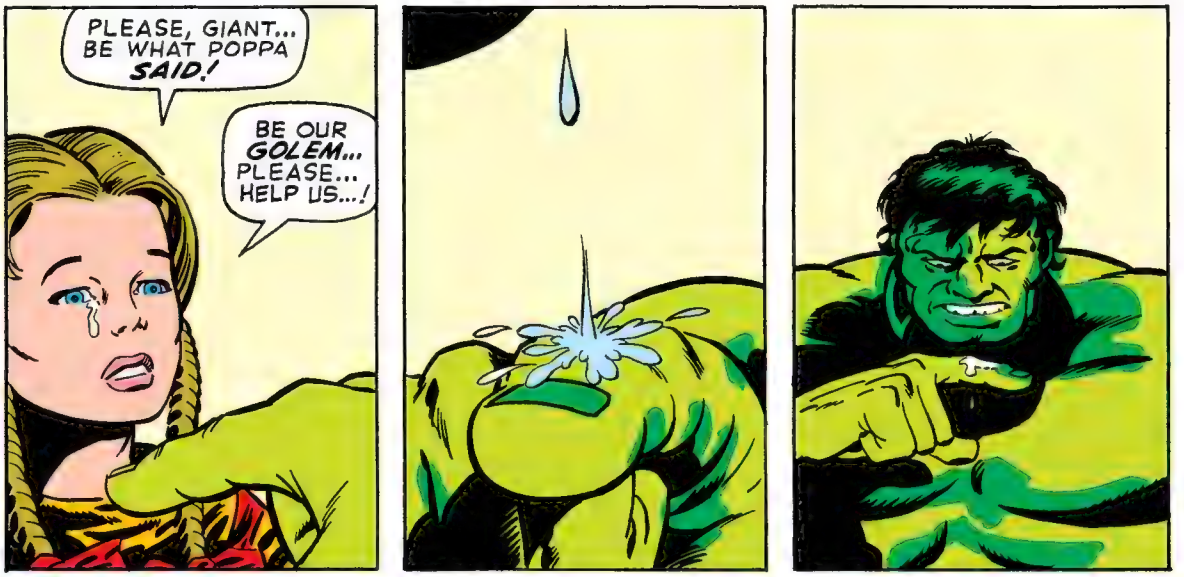
MEN KILL EACH DOWN THERE! EVERYPLACE HULK GOES, MEN ARE THE SAME!
BUT, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HULK! NOTHING!

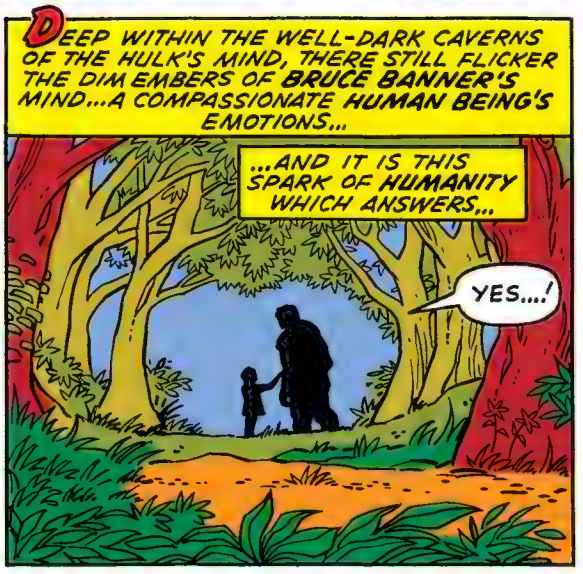



GO AWAY! HULK KNOWS WHAT YOU WANT, SOMEHOW! HULK CAN TELL!
HULK WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH FIGHTING THAT'S GOING ON!

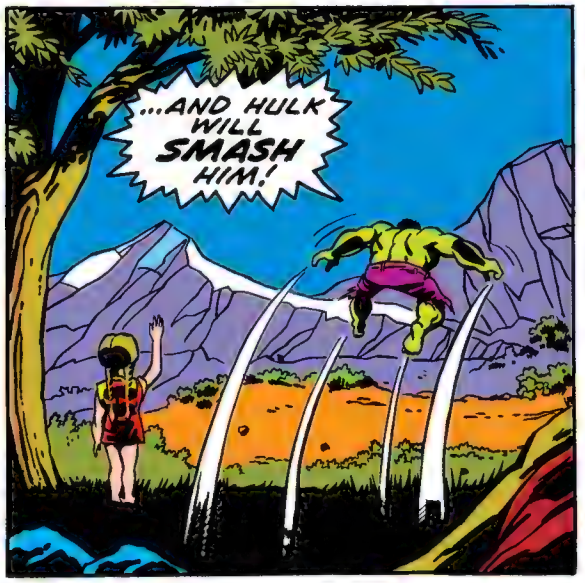
WAIT... PLEASE! IF YOU DON'T HELP MY POPPA... HE'LL DIE....!

THEN HE DIES! HULK DOESN'T WANT TROUBLE-- JUST PEACE!
IF HE HELPS MEN AGAINST DRAXON, SOLDIERS WILL COME --WON'T LEAVE HULK ALONE!


PLEASE, GIANT... BE WHAT POPPA SAID!
BE OUR GOLEM... PLEASE... HELP US...!


DEEP WITHIN THE WELL-DARK CAVERNS OF THE HULK'S MIND, THERE STILL FLICKER THE DIM EMBERS OF BRUCE BANNER'S MIND...A COMPASSIONATE HUMAN BEING'S EMOTIONS...
...AND IT IS THIS SPARK OF HUMANITY WHICH ANSWERS...
YES...!

YES! HULK WILL HELP YOU!
IF DRAXON CAN MAKE MEN FEAR...MAKE A LITTLE GIRL CRY...THEN DRAXON MUST BE BAD...

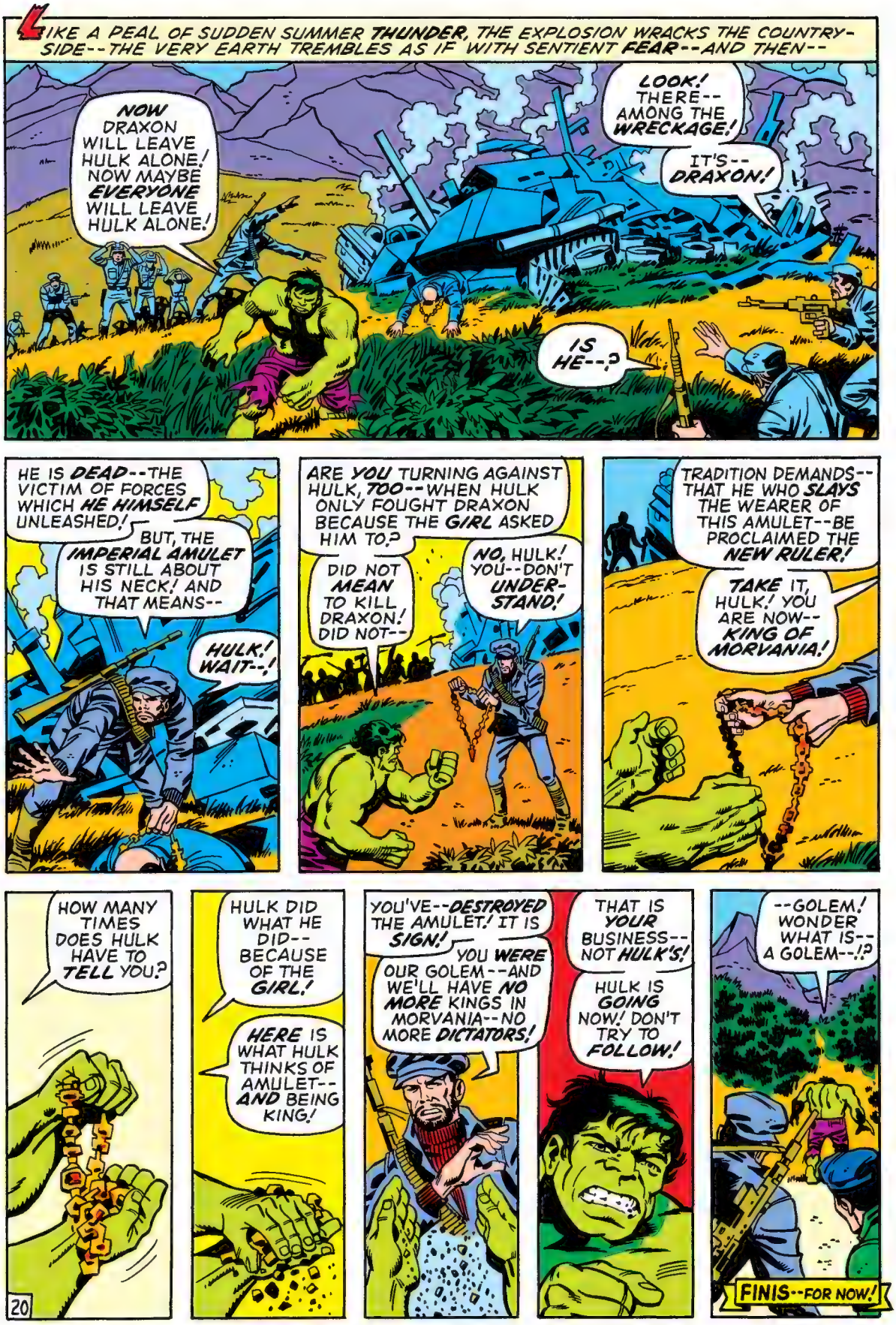

...AND HULK WILL SMASH HIM!

THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG!
I SHALL RETURN FROM THE PALACE... IN ONLY A FEW MINUTES!
PERHAPS THIS IS THE TIME TO UNVEIL...MY ULTIMATE WEAPON!
YES, GREAT DRAXON!

"IT IS THE DICTATOR! HE IS HEADED BACK TO HIS FORTRESS! BUT WHY?"
NEVER MIND HIM! KEEP FIRING! WHY DON'T YOU SHOOT BACK AT DRAXON'S MEN!
IT IS NO USE, ISAAC! NO USE!
ZING!
WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE REBELLED! WE ARE DOOMED!!
FING!
HAH! WE SHALL CRUSH THE SWINE LONG BEFORE THE DICTATOR RETURNS! WE--
THAT SOUND! WHAT IS IT??
A GREAT RUSH OF AIR--AS IF SOME ROCKET WERE HURTLING DOWN TOWARD US! IT--
IT'S THE HULK!
BUT--DRAXON SAID THE HULK WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH US! DRAXON SAID--
DRAXON! YES--THAT'S WHAT HULK WANTS TO KNOW--!
WHERE IS DRAXON??
17

HERE IS YOUR ANSWER, MONSTER --ALTHOUGH IT WILL HARDLY PLEASE YOU!
HUH? SOMETHING-- BEHIND HULK--!
NOT SOMETHING, YOU BLITHERING BRUTE-- BUT THE ONE THING THAT SHALL FINALLY DESTROY YOU!
THE MOBILE AND INDESTRUCTIBLE WAR-TOWER OF DRAXON!
ITS FINAL COMPONENTS ARRIVED IN MORVANIA-- IN THE SAME CRATES WHICH CARRIED YOU HERE!
VROOM!
NOW THAT IT IS COMPLETED, I NEED NO ONE'S HELP TO BRING YOU AND THE INSURGENTS TO YOUR KNEES--
--AND THENCE TO YOUR DEATHS!!
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED WITHIN THOSE CRUMBLING RUINS, HULK!
AT LEAST THERE, YOU STILL HAD-- YOUR LIFE!
DRAXON'S MACHINE IS BLASTING THE HULK--KILLING HIM!
I TOLD YOU WE HAD NO CHANCE! EVEN THE MONSTER CANNOT STAND AGAINST HIM!
QUIET, FOOL! HAVE YOU--NO PITY?
LOOK! NOW SOME NEW DEVILISH DEVICE IS BROUGHT FORTH--FROM WITHIN THE MACHINE!
IT BEGINS TO HUM! IT'S SOME SORT OF--DEATH-RAY!
WHY DOESN'T THE HULK STRUGGLE HARDER? WHY?
18

"WHY??"
BTAAAK!
THERE! THAT SHOULD HAVE-- IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN!
THE HULK IS STILL ALIVE! HE'S-- RISING!
COILS-- TIGHT AROUND HULK'S NECK!
GETTING-- HARD TO BREATHE--!
BUT--WANTED TO KNOW--WHAT YOU HAD--TO THROW AGAINST HULK!
NOW-- HULK KNOWS!
AND HULK SAYS --IT IS NOTHING!
NOTHING!!
SKROOCH
19


LIKE A PEAL OF SUDDEN SUMMER THUNDER, THE EXPLOSION WRACKS THE COUNTRY-SIDE--THE VERY EARTH TREMBLES AS IF WITH SENTIENT FEAR--AND THEN--
NOW DRAXON WILL LEAVE HULK ALONE! NOW MAYBE EVERYONE WILL LEAVE HULK ALONE!
LOOK! THERE--AMONG THE WRECKAGE!
IT'S--DRAXON!
IS HE--?
HE IS DEAD--THE VICTIM OF FORCES WHICH HE HIMSELF UNLEASHED!
BUT, THE IMPERIAL AMULET IS STILL ABOUT HIS NECK! AND THAT MEANS--
HULK! WAIT--!
ARE YOU TURNING AGAINST HULK, TOO--WHEN HULK ONLY FOUGHT DRAXON BECAUSE THE GIRL ASKED HIM TO?
DID NOT MEAN TO KILL DRAXON! DID NOT--
NO, HULK! YOU--DON'T UNDER-STAND!
TRADITION DEMANDS--THAT HE WHO SLAYS THE WEARER OF THIS AMULET--BE PROCLAIMED THE NEW RULER!
TAKE IT, HULK! YOU ARE NOW--KING OF MORVANIA!
HOW MANY TIMES DOES HULK HAVE TO TELL YOU?
HULK DID WHAT HE DID--BECAUSE OF THE GIRL!
HERE IS WHAT HULK THINKS OF AMULET--AND BEING KING!
YOU'VE--DESTROYED THE AMULET! IT IS SIGN!
YOU WERE OUR GOLEM--AND WE'LL HAVE NO MORE KINGS IN MORVANIA--NO MORE DICTATORS!
THAT IS YOUR BUSINESS--NOT HULK'S!
HULK IS GOING NOW! DON'T TRY TO FOLLOW!
--GOLEM! WONDER WHAT IS--A GOLEM--!?
FINIS--FOR NOW!
20

The Incredible Hulk #134 house ad
from December 1970 titles

BIOGRAPHIES

ROY THOMAS

Roy Thomas broke into the comics business in 1965, a bright-eyed young man from Missouri who would come to personally represent the inevitable promise of the medium finally made manifest: the fan that was raised on the stories was now creating them. Along with fellow fan Jerry Bails, Roy developed the first known organized comic fandom in the pages of *Alter Ego,* their self-published fanzine that connected together longtime and avid readers of comic books.

Leaving a teaching job, Roy took his deep knowledge of comics characters and their history and moved to New York City, taking advantage of an opportunity to work at DC Comics. His stay lasted little over a week, and he moved quickly across town to Marvel, where his career in comics started in earnest. As staff writer under Stan Lee, his duties quickly matured from proofreading and spot writing to more serious work as an assistant editor, where his acumen at remembering the minutiae of Marvel history came in handy for his forgetful boss.

Titles as disparate as *Modeling With Millie, Kid Colt,* and *Sgt. Fury* were written under his auspices, but his burning desire to write his own super-hero comics was held at bay. Eventually, he was able to write a few super-hero stories as fill-ins for Stan Lee: "My Life For Yours!," the Iron Man feature in *Tales of Suspense* #73, and a pair of Dr. Strange stories for *Strange Tales.*

Stan must have liked what he was reading, because after this seeming trial period, Roy "The Boy" (as he was called around the Bullpen) was given his own books for keeps. Roy closed out 1966 holding the reins to both *Sgt. Fury* and *The X-Men.* The latter book was a big deal for him personally, as his true love in writing was not *just* super-hero books, but super-hero *team* books! Along with artist Werner Roth, Roy carried the book through its post-Lee/Kirby tenure, creating characters along the way like Banshee, Sunfire, and Havok, culminating in his watershed collaboration with Neal Adams.

Proving his mettle on *X-Men* led him to *The Avengers,* and it was with this team that Roy really started crafting his legacy. In the pages of Earth's Mightiest Heroes, Roy introduced the Vision, drafted the Black Panther into membership, and wrote the "Kree/Skrull War." All in all, Roy logged serious time as writer of *Doctor Strange, Sub-Mariner, The Incredible Hulk, Captain Marvel* and more before the '60s concluded.

As he marched into the '70s, Roy's influence at Marvel widened even further to include the first adaptation of Robert E. Howard's *Conan the Barbarian,* a reinvention of Adam Warlock, and new super-team, The Defenders. By 1972 Roy was selected to succeed Stan Lee as Editor-In-Chief after the maestro of Marvel moved on to duties as Publisher. His tenure as EIC lasted for over two years before he returned to his writer/editor role, creating *Savage Sword of Conan*, *What If...?*, and the WWII heroes, the Invaders.

In 1980, he left the House of Ideas for DC Comics to pursue a lifelong dream by reviving the Justice Society of America in the pages of *All-Star Squadron.* He wrote many more comics for DC and Marvel over the next two decades and is still active today, writing comics, historical studies, adaptations of classic novels, and publishing a new version of *Alter Ego.* He lives in South Carolina with his wife and collaborator, Dann, and an amazing menagerie of animals that must make the neighbors nervous!

HERB TRIMPE

He may not have created as many great characters as Kirby or Ditko, or had as groundbreaking a style as Steranko or Adams, and he'll be the first one to tell you that! But Herb Trimpe is easily one of the most recognizable comic artists of all time, owing to the incredible popularity of two titles (*Incredible Hulk, G.I. Joe*) to which his legacy is most indebted.

Herb joined Marvel fresh out of the armed forces, where he served in the Air Force as a weatherman from 1962-1966, providing weather telemetry to forces stationed in Vietnam. He was offered a job in the production department at Marvel, but was promised he could find fill-in work as a penciler and inker in between his office duties. He first got to flex his artistic muscles on a variety of western stories in books like *Kid Colt, Outlaw*, and then got the chance to draw his first full-length story in

Marvel Super-Heroes #16, featuring the Phantom Eagle, a collaboration with writer Gary Friedrich that played off of Herb's well-known interest in drawing airplanes.

He also inked several books, most notably finishing the pencils in some of Marie Severin's Hulk stories in *Tales to Astonish*. Several months after his last inking job on the Hulk feature, Herb got the book as his own, and he wouldn't part with it for almost eight years! From *Incredible Hulk* #106-193, spanning the years 1968 to 1975, the tales of Marvel's most misunderstood man-beast were drawn under his auspices. He immediately combined an EC-influenced approach to layouts with a Kirbyesque style of dynamics, a style that became even more pronounced when he began inking his own pencils with issue #117. Through it all, he never strayed from the elements of the character he felt had already been perfected: the pathos of a tragic figure's Jekyll/Hyde dual personality.

Shortly after his tenure began on *The Incredible Hulk,* he also picked up work on *Nick Fury,* penciling that series' last handful of issues, but it was the Hulk that was the dominant title during this time in Herb's career. During his tenure, he came up with the Hulkbusters concept, did character designs for the likes of Wendigo and Zzzax, and also drew the first appearance of Wolverine in *Incredible Hulk* #180-181.

After the Hulk, Herb drew the Toho-licensed properties *Godzilla* and *Shogun Warriors*, at the same time penciling *The Defenders*. He also drew the first several issues of Marvel UK's *Captain Britain*.

As the '80s began, Herb drew some much-beloved *Marvel Team-Up* issues, but it was the launch of another licensed title that would ensure that Herb's art was among the most seen comic art of the decade. *G.I. Joe* #1 was an instant hit, selling hundreds of thousands of copies over multiple printings, and was the start of an incredibly successful, long-running title. In addition to the early *G.I. Joe* issues, Herb drew its spinoff title, *G.I. Joe Special Missions.*

Another highlight in Herb's career was providing breakdown art in collaboration with Barry Windsor-Smith on the *Machine Man* limited series. Later in the decade, his workload scaled back to spot penciling and inking jobs. In 2002, he was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year Award at the San Diego Comic-Con for services rendered as a chaplain at Ground Zero after 9/11.

SAL BUSCEMA

Without a doubt one of comics' most prolific artists, "Our Pal" Sal Buscema joined Marvel in 1968 shortly after his elder brother, John. Tackling inking duties on *Silver Surfer* and *Fantastic Four*, Sal quickly graduated to penciling. He drew long runs on Marvel books like *Captain America, Incredible Hulk, Thor* and *Peter Parker, The Spectacular Spider-Man*, and was also behind establishing the visual look for the early issues of *Defenders, ROM* and *New Mutants.* His career as one of Marvel's most versatile artists lasted throughout the '70s and '80s and into the '90s. In 1988 he returned to art chores for *Peter Parker*, and over the next ten years set the all-time record for an artist penciling consecutive issues of a Marvel title, providing pencils for all monthly issues from #134 through #238 (and inking the vast majority as well!) Though primarily known for his pencils, he also inked quite a bit, too: one of his first jobs in comics was inking his brother's work on the all-time classic *Silver Surfer #4*! Even though he retired from full-time work in the late '90s, readers can still see his name on comics credits from time to time, including inking work on the cult hit *Spider-Girl*.

Biographical material researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS LIBRARY

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN VOLS. 1-13
ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN VOLS. 1-2
THE AVENGERS VOLS. 1-11
THE BLACK PANTHER VOL. 1
CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-5
CAPTAIN MARVEL VOLS. 1-3
DAREDEVIL VOLS. 1-6
DEATHLOK VOL. 1
THE DEFENDERS VOLS. 1-2
DOCTOR STRANGE VOLS. 1-5
THE FANTASTIC FOUR VOLS. 1-12
THE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-2
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VOLS. 1-5
THE INHUMANS VOLS. 1-2
THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN VOLS. 1-6
IRON FIST VOL. 1
MARVEL TEAM-UP VOL. 1
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. VOLS. 1-2
RAWHIDE KID VOLS. 1-2
SGT. FURY VOLS. 1-3
THE SILVER SURFER VOLS. 1-2
THE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-4
THE MIGHTY THOR VOLS. 1-10
WARLOCK VOLS. 1-2
THE X-MEN VOLS. 1-8
THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-7

THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-5
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-5
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOL. 1

THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA HEROES VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA JUNGLE ADVENTURE VOLS. 1-2
ATLAS ERA MENACE VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES VOLS. 1-4
ATLAS ERA TALES TO ASTONISH VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE VOLS. 1-3
ATLAS ERA VENUS VOL. 1

THE HULK
A NIGHTMARE COMES TRUE! BRUCE BANNER AT THE MERCY OF—
THIS IS THE END, BANNER— YOUR END!
STOP, HULK! STOP! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND— YOU'RE ME!
IF I KILL YOU, I DIE!

PRINTED IN CHINA

MARVEL